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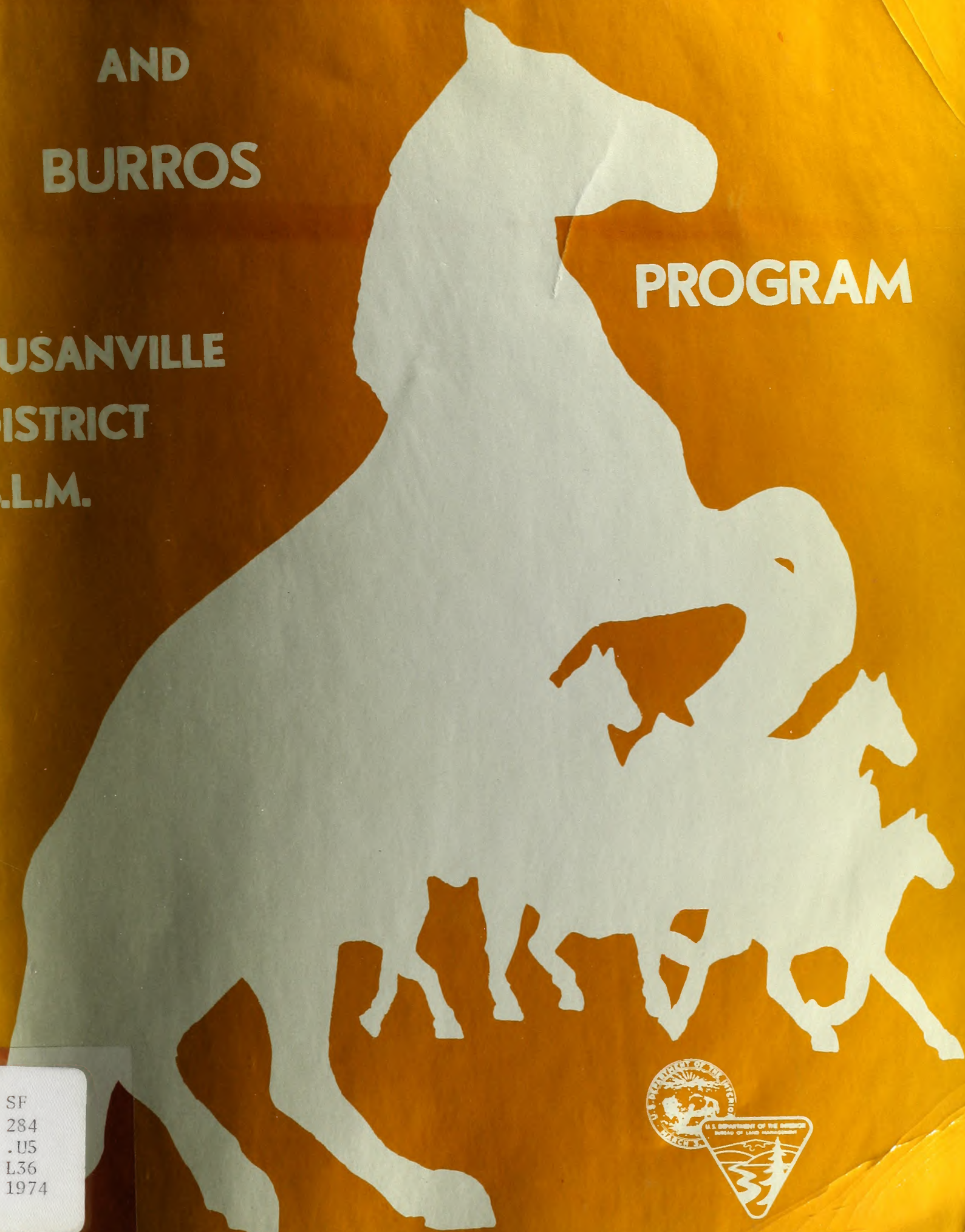
# D HORSES

# AND BURROS PROGRAM

## SUSANVILLE DISTRICT B.L.M.



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WILD HORSES AND BURRO PROGRAM FACTS

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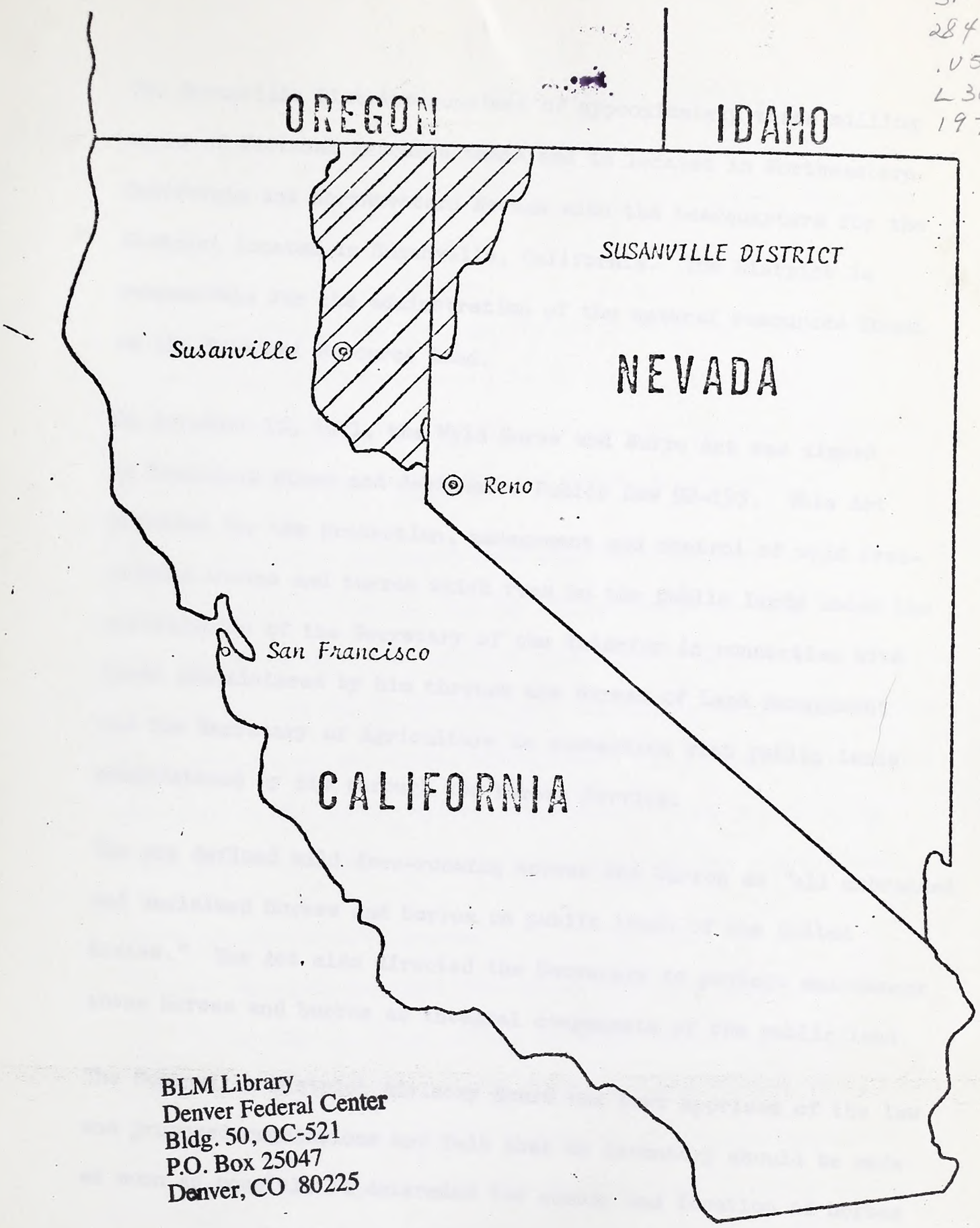


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The Susanville District consists of approximately three million acres of National Resource Lands and is located in Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada with the headquarters for the District located in Susanville, California. The District is responsible for the adminstration of the natural resources found on the National Resource Land.

On December 15, 1971, the Wild Horse and Burro Act was signed by President Nixon and designated Public Law 92-195. This Act provided for the protection, management and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros which roam on the public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in connection with lands administered by him through the Bureau of Land Management and the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with public lands administered by him through the Forest Service.

The Act defined wild free-roaming horses and burros as "all unbranded and unclaimed horses and burros on public lands of the United States." The Act also directed the Secretary to protect and manage these horses and burros as integral components of the public land.

The Susanville District Advisory Board was kept apprised of the law and proposed regulations and felt that an inventory should be made as soon as possible to determine the number and location of horses

and burros in the district. They provided the funding and a helicopter inventory was conducted of the district in February 1973. This inventory was supplemented by a follow-up inventory in August of 1973.

These two inventories provided the basic data for establishing areas of use by horses and burros in their year-round habitat and it also pointed out several problems and the need to develop a program for proper management of horses and burros.

Horses and burros have used this area for some time as part of their natural habitat as records indicate that as early as 1833 the California Missions reported ownership of 62,500 horses, mules and donkeys and the early livestock and mining industries of this area used horses and burros extensively. It is believed that the majority of the horses and burros present on the public lands today are descendants of these early users of the public lands.

Terms as used in this program:

(a) National Resource Land means any lands administered by the Secretary of the Interior either exclusively or jointly through the Bureau of Land Management;

(b) Base Property Qualifications means the maximum amount of grazing privileges on Federal Range properly allowable to base properties in Class 1 or Class 2;

(c) Allowable Livestock Use means the maximum number of animal unit months of forage that has been determined by decision that can be used in a given grazing year;

(d) Suspended Non-Use means those base property qualifications which are greater than the present allowable stocking rate but the combination of licensed use and suspended non-use will not be greater than the production potential;

(e) Grazing Capacity means the total animal-unit months of forage available from a tract or tracts of forage land during a given period;

(f) Animal Unit Month (AUM) means the amount of feed necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

## SUMMARY

The present situation of the areas where horses and burros are found in the District show that over use is being made and resource deterioration is occurring. The range conditions show that only 4% of the area is in good condition, only 8% of the area falls into stable watershed conditions, wildlife populations are requiring more forage than was reserved during the forage allocation period, and that livestock, wildlife and horses utilized 35,000 AUM's over the allowable use in 1973 and that this overuse will increase to almost 76,000 AUM's in 1974.

The objectives of this program are to protect and manage the wild horse and burro as components of the public land where they existed as of the first inventory and at least maintain the rate of deterioration at the level which was occurring at that time.

In order to accomplish this we have proposed to hold the population increase of horses and burros to zero and reduce these populations to the level that existed at the time of the first inventory.

## PRESENT SITUATION

### Horses and Burros

Two inventories of the Susanville District by helicopter found horses and burros using approximately 2,275,000 acres of the District.

Horse Inventory of February 1973:

| Herd Management Area | Adult | Young | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 400 | 51 | 451 |
| High Rock | 117 | 19 | 136 |
| Fox-Hog Mountain | 65 | 22 | 87 |
| Tuledad | 193 | 29 | 222 |
| New Years Lake | 30 | 1 | 31 |
| Ravendale | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Shaffer Mountain | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Fort Sage Mountain | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Twin Peaks | 686 | 53 | 739 |
| Round Mountain | 51 | 5 | 56 |
| TOTAL | 1566 | 180 | 1746 |

Horse Inventory of August 1973:

| Herd Management Area | Adult | Young | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 454 | 90 | 544 |
| High Rock | 142 | 35 | 177 |
| Fox-Hog Mountain | 92 | 20 | 112 |
| Tuledad | 147 | 32 | 179 |
| New Years Lake | 51 | 9 | 60 |
| Ravendale | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Shaffer Mountain | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Fort Sage Mountain | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Twin Peaks | 1196 | 295 | 1491 |
| Round Mountain | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| TOTAL | 2122 | 483 | 2605 |

The area inventoried ranges in elevation from 4000 feet to above 7500 feet and covers several types of range from high level tablelands to rough broken lava outcrops. Some of the major range types are salt desert shrub, sagebrush grasslands, juniper and bunchgrass ranges.

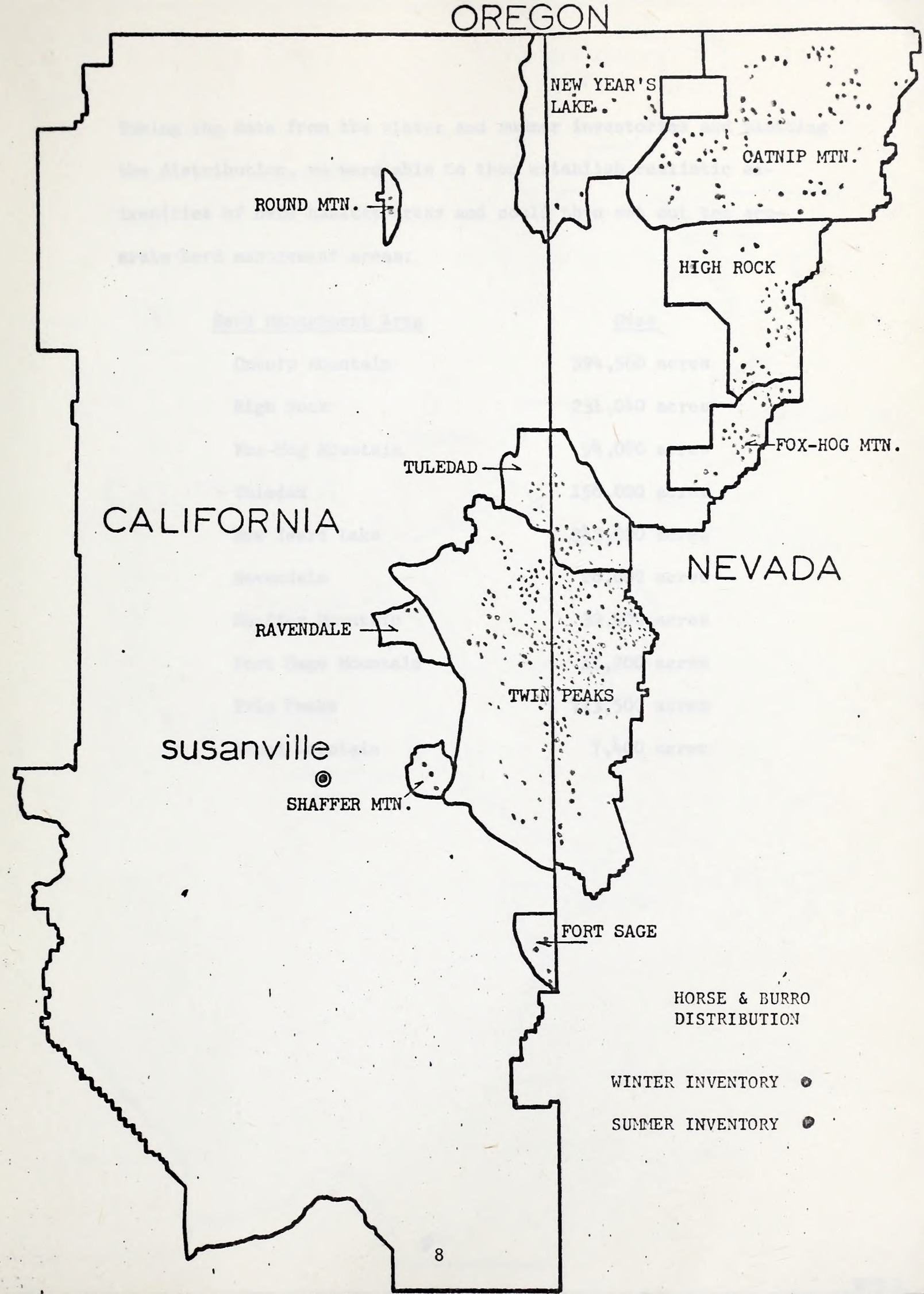
The inventory revealed approximately 290 bands of horses with an average band size of 9 animals. This varied from single animals to a few fairly large bands of 20-30 animals. The distribution map shows the location of the various bands.

Bear Inventory of August 1971:

| Bear Management Area | Adult | Young | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cantle Mountain | 454 | 90 | 544 |
| High Peak | 142 | 35 | 177 |
| Tri-Peg Mountain | 92 | 20 | 112 |
| Maladen | 147 | 32 | 179 |
| New Jones Lake | 51 | 9 | 60 |
| Greenhale | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Sentry Mountain | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Fort Sage Mountain | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Twin Peaks | 1192 | 85 | = 1347 |
| Round Mountain | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| TOTAL | 2132 | 493 | 2625 |

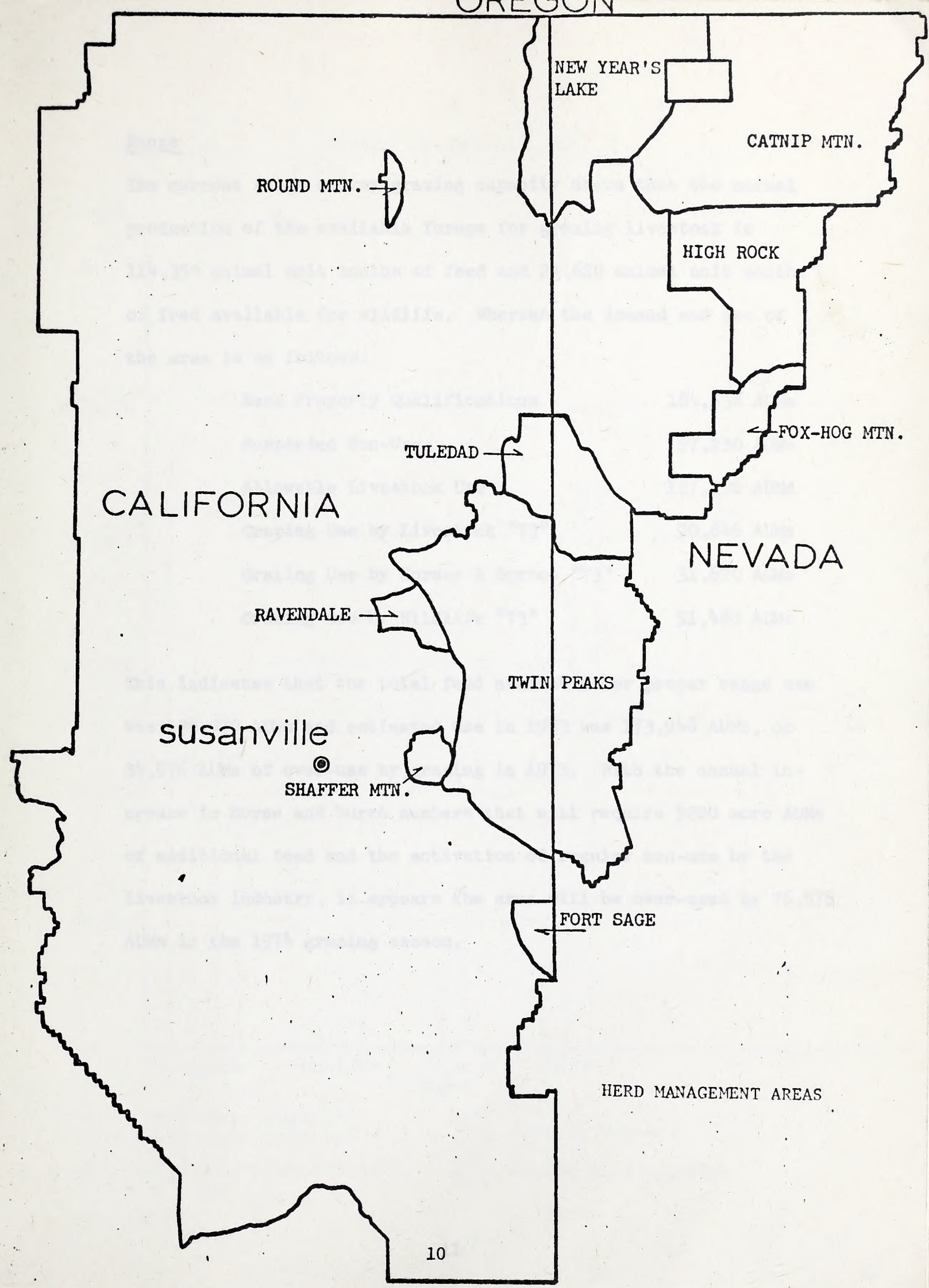
The area inventoried ranges in elevation from 4000 feet to above 7500 feet and covers several types of range from high level tables lands to rough broken lava outcrops. Some of the major range types are tall desert shrub, sagebrush grasslands, juniper and ponderosa ranges.

The inventory revealed approximately 250 bands of horses with an average band size of 2 animals. This varied from single animals to a few fairly large bands of 20-30 animals. The distribution map shows the location of the various bands.


OREGON
NEW YEAR'S LAKE
CATNIP MTN.
ROUND MTN.
HIGH ROCK
FOX-HOG MTN.
TULEDAD
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
HORSE & BURRO DISTRIBUTION
WINTER INVENTORY
SUMMER INVENTORY

Taking the data from the winter and summer inventories and plotting the distribution, we were able to then establish realistic extremities of herd habitat areas and could then set out ten separate herd management areas:

| Herd Management Area | Size |
|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 594,560 acres |
| High Rock | 231,040 acres |
| Fox-Hog Mountain | 94,080 acres |
| Tuledad | 158,000 acres |
| New Years Lake | 343,000 acres |
| Ravendale | 28,600 acres |
| Shaffer Mountain | 32,000 acres |
| Fort Sage Mountain | 17,200 acres |
| Twin Peaks | 773,500 acres |
| Round Mountain | 7,400 acres |


OREGON
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TULEDAD
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS

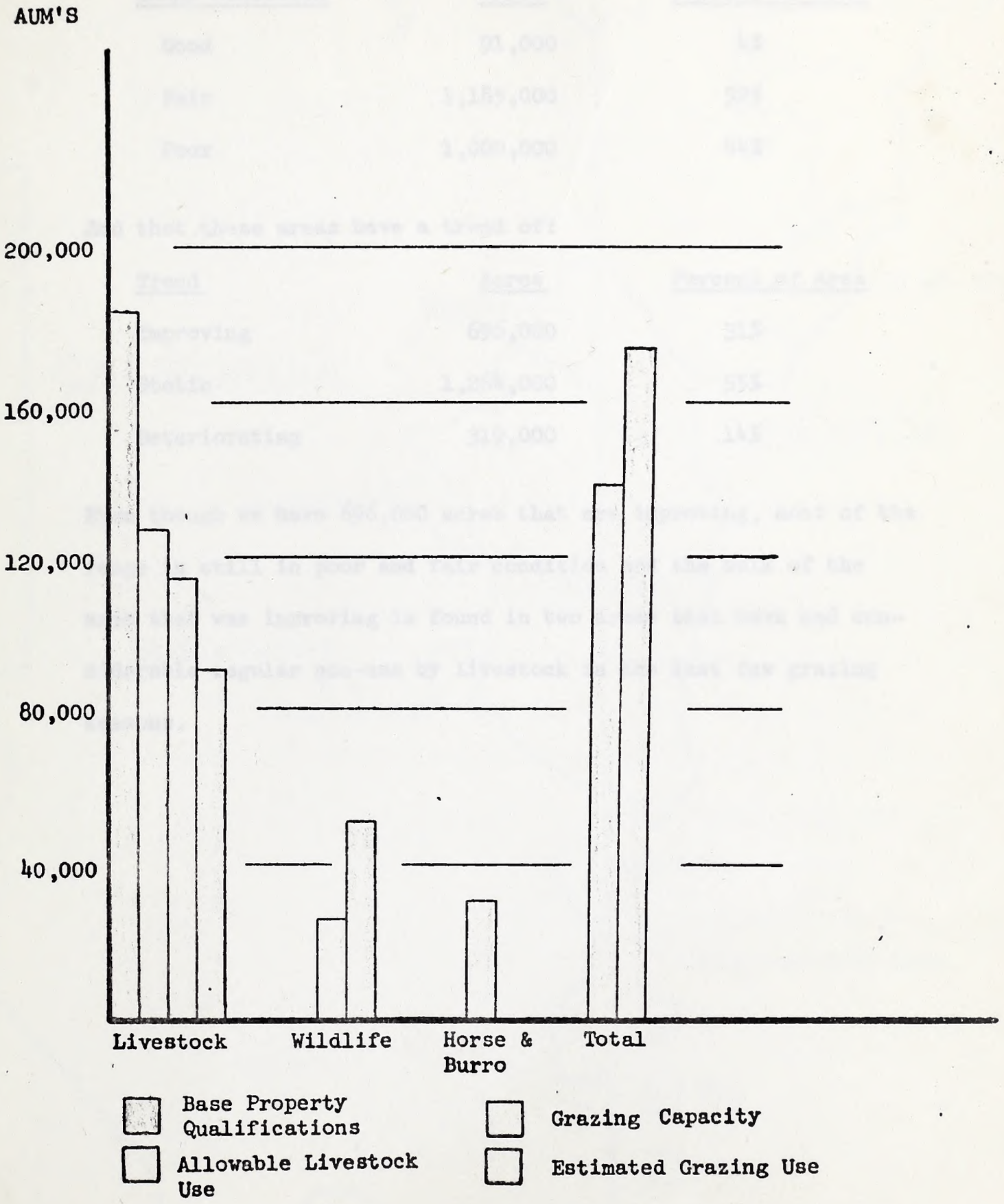
Range

The current range survey grazing capacity shows that the normal production of the available forage for grazing livestock is 114,350 animal unit months of feed and 24,620 animal unit months of feed available for wildlife. Whereas the demand and use of the area is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Base Property Qualifications | 184,436 AUMs |
| Suspended Non-Use | 57,230 AUMs |
| Allowable Livestock Use | 127,196 AUMs |
| Grazing Use by Livestock "73" | 90,846 AUMs |
| Grazing Use by Horses & Burros "73" | 31,620 AUMs |
| Grazing Use by Wildlife "73" | 51,480 AUMs |

This indicates that the total feed available for proper range use was 138,970 AUMs and estimated use in 1973 was 173,946 AUMs, or 34,976 AUMs of over-use by grazing in 1973. With the annual increase in horse and burro numbers that will require 5200 more AUMs of additional feed and the activation of regular non-use by the livestock industry, it appears the area will be over-used by 76,576 AUMs in the 1974 grazing season.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE



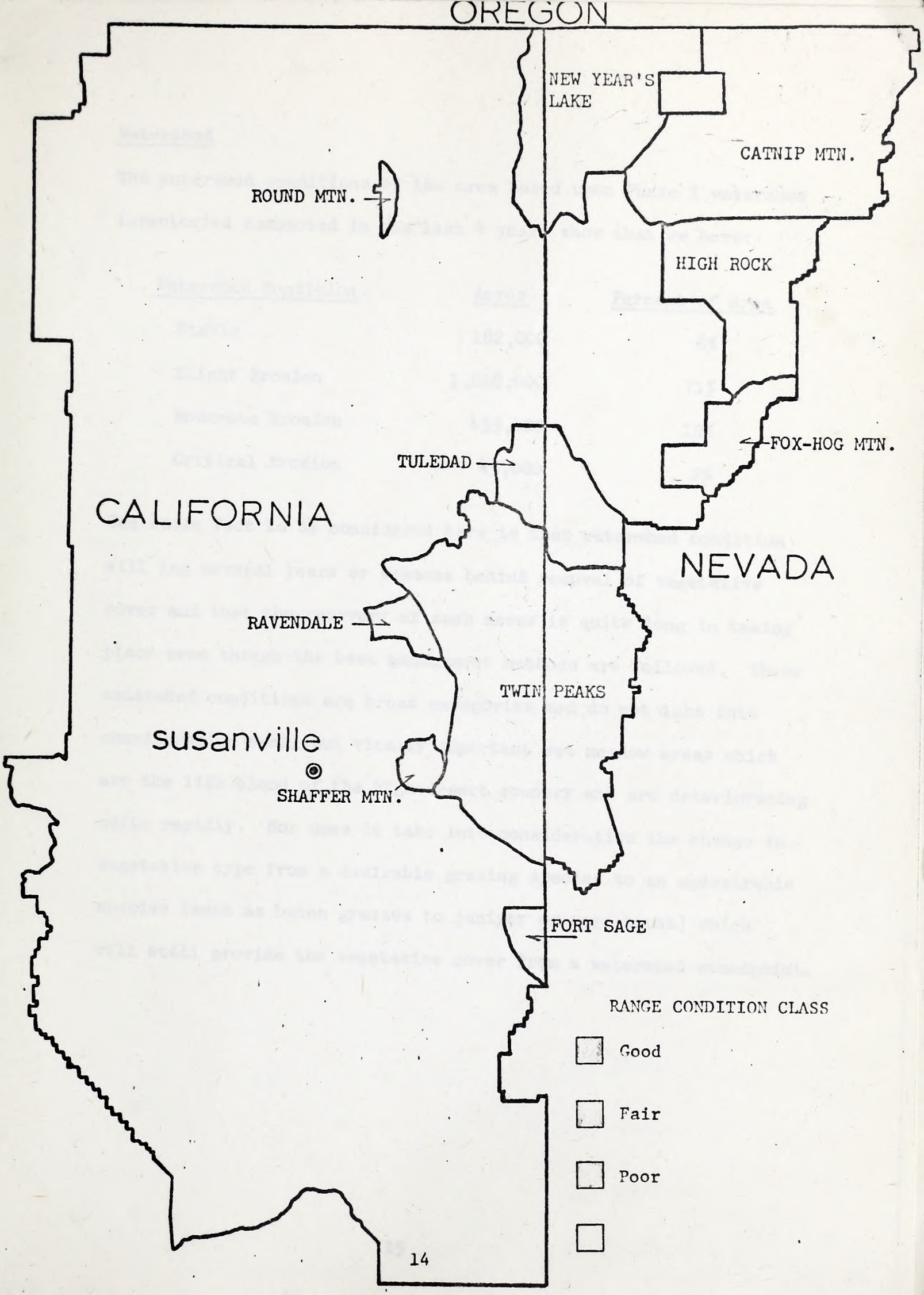
The present range condition of the area shows that we have:

| Range Condition | Acres | Percent of Area |
|---|---|---|
| Good | 91,000 | 4% |
| Fair | 1,185,000 | 52% |
| Poor | 1,000,000 | 44% |

And that these areas have a trend of:

| Trend | Acres | Percent of Area |
|---|---|---|
| Improving | 696,000 | 31% |
| Static | 1,264,000 | 55% |
| Deteriorating | 319,000 | 14% |

Even though we have 696,000 acres that are improving, most of the range is still in poor and fair condition and the bulk of the area that was improving is found in two areas that have had considerable regular non-use by livestock in the last few grazing seasons.


OREGON
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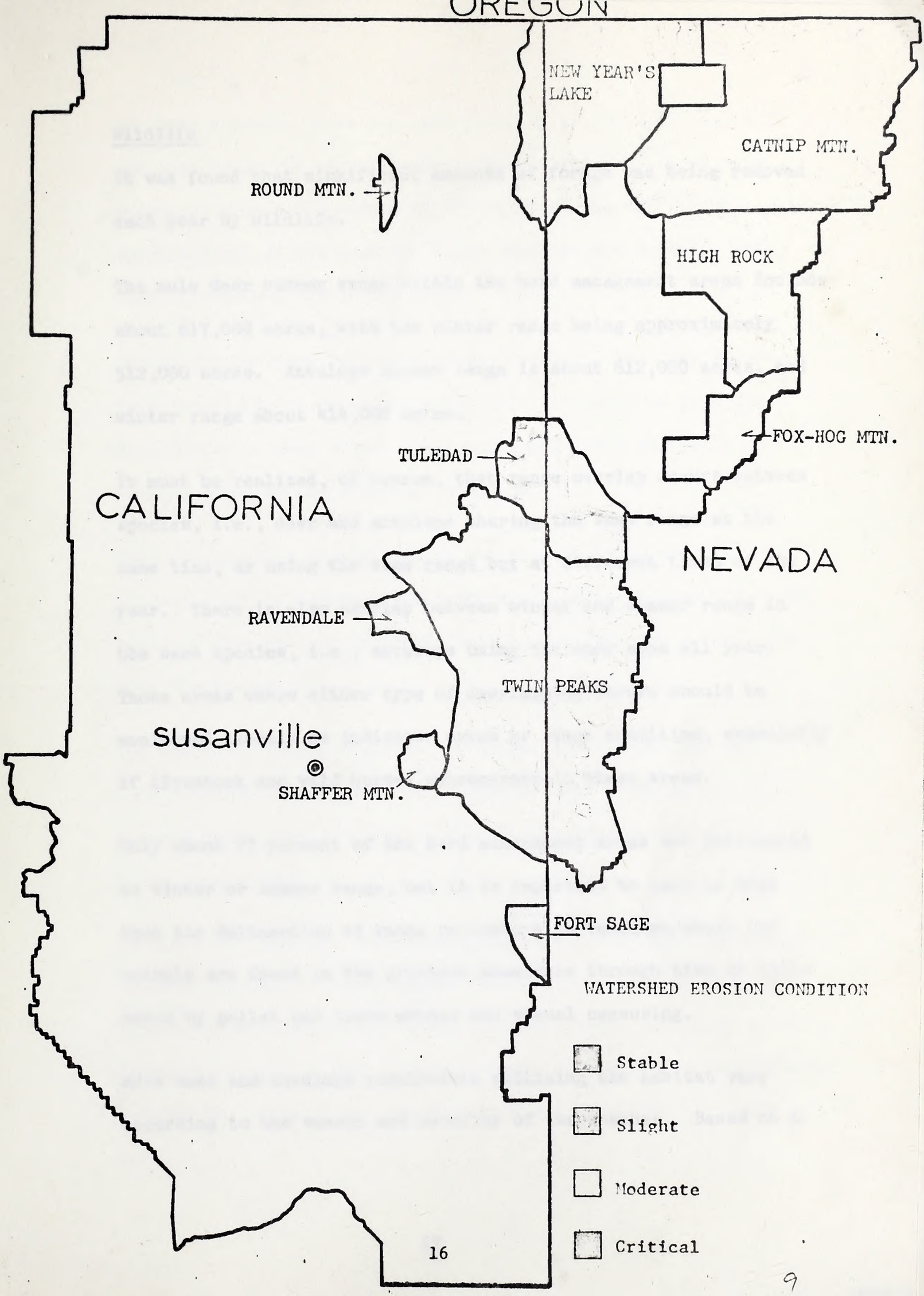
HIGH ROCK
FOX-HOG MTN.
TULEDAD
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
RANGE CONDITION CLASS
Good
Fair
Poor

Watershed

The watershed conditions of the area based upon Phase I watershed inventories conducted in the last 4 years show that we have:

| Watershed Condition | Acres | Percent of Area |
|---|---|---|
| Stable | 182,000 | 8% |
| Slight Erosion | 1,618,000 | 71% |
| Moderate Erosion | 433,000 | 19% |
| Critical Erosion | 45,000 | 2% |

One basic fact to be considered here is that watershed condition will lag several years or seasons behind removal of vegetative cover and that the recovery of such areas is quite long in taking place even though the best management methods are followed. These watershed conditions are broad categories and do not take into consideration small but vitally important wet meadow areas which are the life blood of the high desert country and are deteriorating quite rapidly. Nor does it take into consideration the change in vegetative type from a desirable grazing species to an undesirable species (such as bunch grasses to juniper or sage brush) which will still provide the vegetative cover from a watershed standpoint.


OREGON
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HIGH ROCK
FOX-HOG MTN.
TULEDAD
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
WATERSHED EROSION CONDITION
Stable
Slight
Moderate
Critical



9

Wildlife

It was found that significant amounts of forage was being removed each year by wildlife.

The mule deer summer range within the herd management areas include about 617,000 acres, with the winter range being approximately 512,000 acres. Antelope summer range is about 612,000 acres, and winter range about 414,000 acres.

It must be realized, of course, that range overlap occurs between species, i.e., deer and antelope sharing the same range at the same time, or using the same range but at different times of the year. There is also overlap between winter and summer range in the same species, i.e., antelope using the same area all year. Those areas where either type of overlapping occurs should be monitored closely as indicator areas of range condition, especially if livestock and wild horses concentrate in these areas.

Only about 27 percent of the herd management areas are designated as winter or summer range, but it is important to keep in mind that the delineation of range perameters is based on where the animals are found in the greatest abundance through time as indicated by pellet and track counts and visual censusing.

Mule deer and antelope populations utilizing the habitat vary according to the season and severity of the weather. Based on a

## Wildlife

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Only about 27 percent of the herd management areas are designated as winter or summer range, but it is important to keep in mind that the distribution of range forewaters is based on where the animals are found in the greatest abundance through use as indicated by pellet and track counts and visual observations.

Mule deer and antelope populations utilizing the habitat vary according to the season and severity of the weather. Based on a

ten-year average, there are approximately 12,000 deer and 2,300 antelope using the higher summer intermediate range from late February through the middle of October. During the winter months approximately 31,000 deer and 4,300 antelope are found at the lower elevations within the area.

During the February 1973 wild horse inventory, the deer observed were invariably at about the 5,700 foot elevation as were the wild horses in most cases. They were apparently following or staying ahead of the receding snow line.

Deer and antelope populations at the present level are utilizing approximately 51 thousand AUMs each year. This is computed on the basis of five deer or antelope equaling one cow with a calf less than six months old.

The amount of forage consumed by rodents and rabbits has not been considered here although various studies conducted in the western states have, in many cases, shown considerable use by these populations.

Antelope and deer are found throughout the entire herd management areas in greater or lesser numbers during some time of the year. Migrations account for recurrent concentrations, generally of short duration, within an area. Other animals are sporadically scattered outside the known summer and winter ranges at almost all times of the year.

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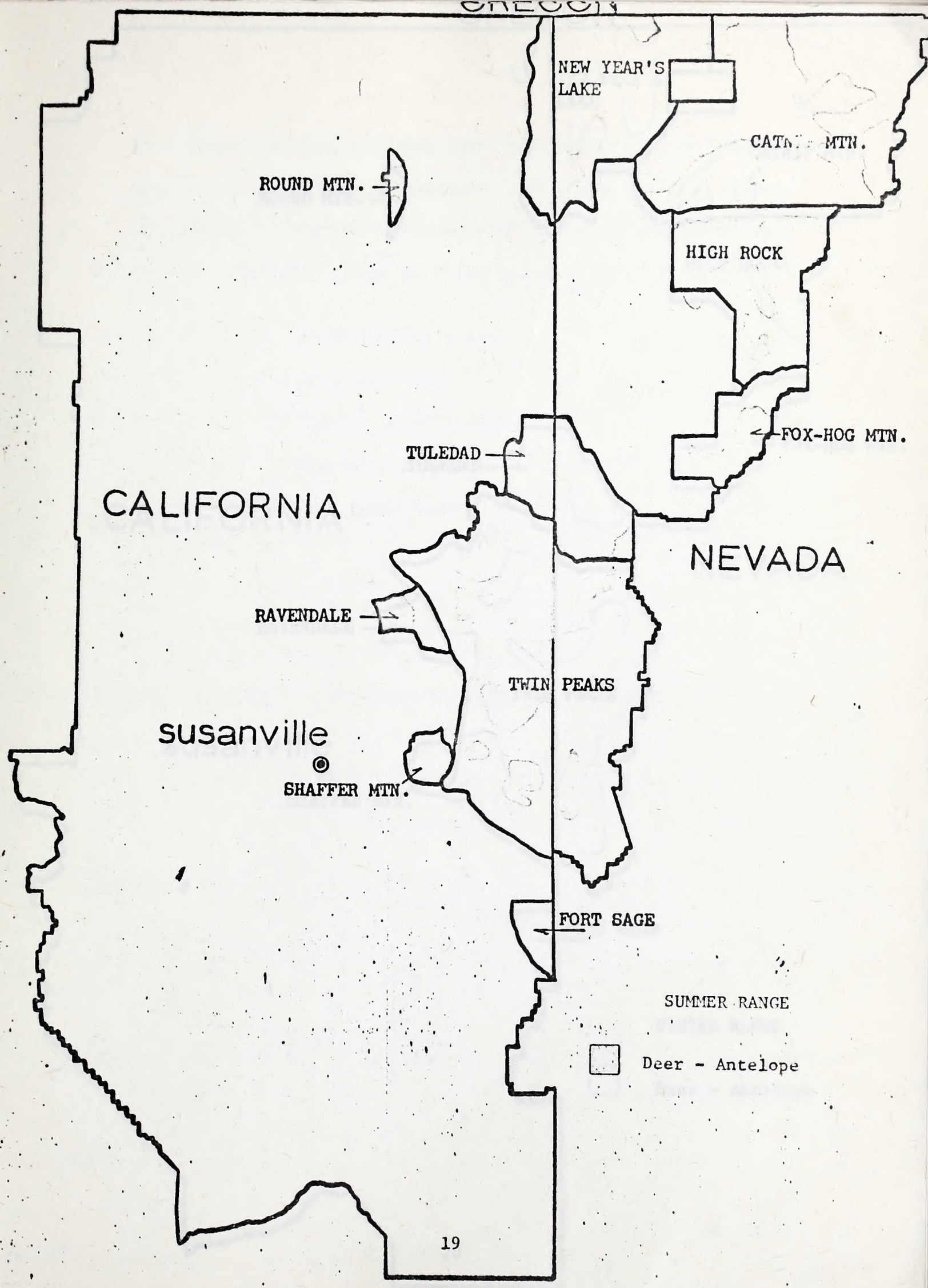
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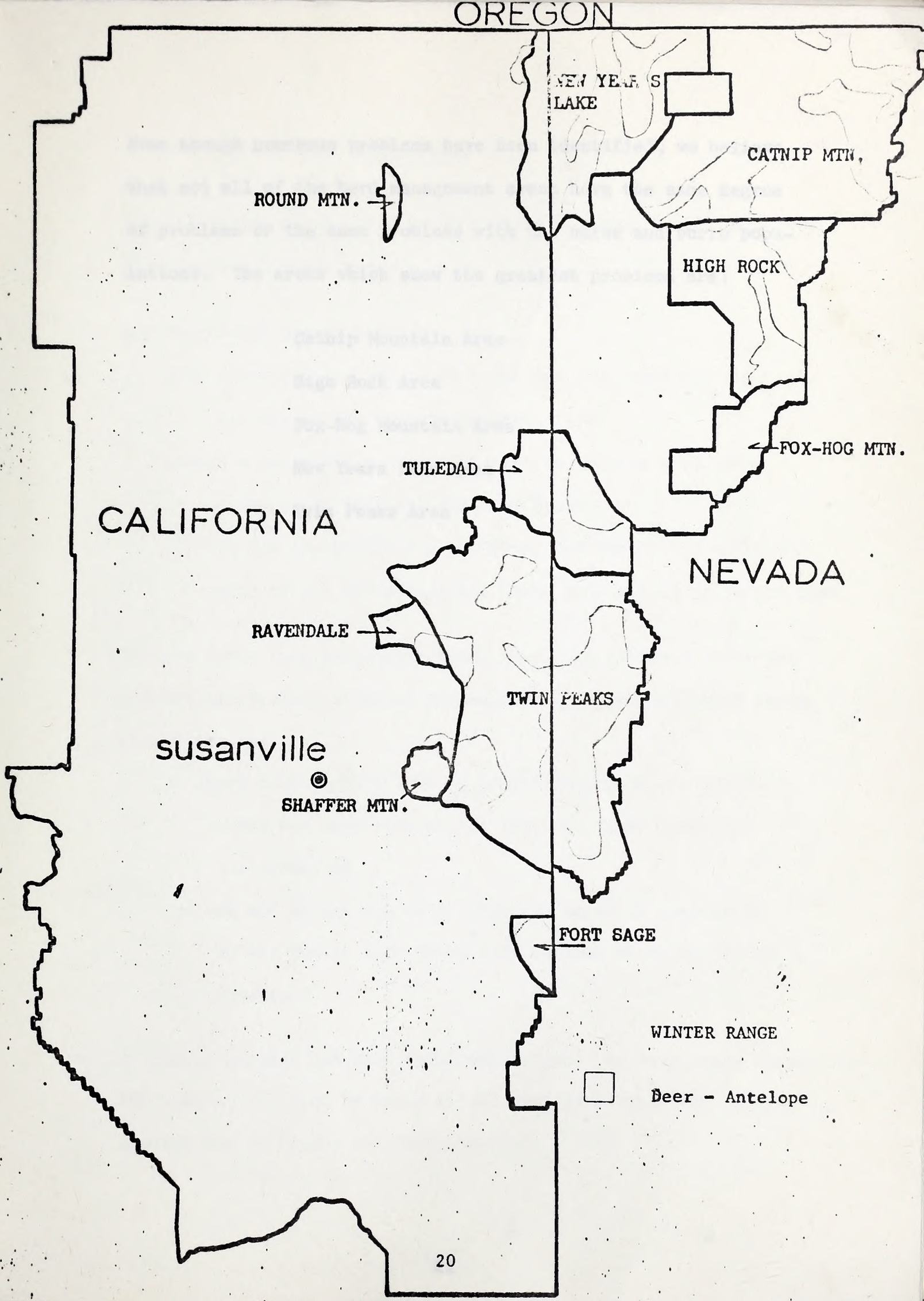
ROUND MTN.
HIGH ROCK
FOX-HOG MTN.
TULEDAD
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
SUMMER RANGE
Deer - Antelope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NEVADA
RAVENDALE
TWIN PEAKS
susanville
SHAFFER MTN.
FORT SAGE
WINTER RANGE
Deer - Antelope

Even though numerous problems have been identified, we believe that not all of the herd management areas have the same degree of problems or the same problems with the horse and burro populations. The areas which show the greatest problems are:

Catnip Mountain Area

High Rock Area

Fox-Hog Mountain Area

New Years Lake Area

Twin Peaks Area

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the wild horse program have been broken into both long range and short range.

The long range objectives are:

Stop deterioration and improve habitat and watershed conditions in the herd management areas.

Manage a horse and burro population in balance with other uses of the National Resource Lands.

Provide for the protection of horses and burros and enforcement of the law protecting these populations on public land.

Because these long range objectives cannot be achieved under the present constraints of money and manpower, we propose short range objectives to:

At least maintain the rate of deterioration at the level which was occurring at the time the first inventory was conducted.

Protect and manage the wild horse and burro as components of the public land where they existed as of the first inventory.

A program package has been submitted to meet the long range objectives but some action must be taken in the next year until the program package can be funded and implemented.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS TO MEET OBJECTIVES

The principles of management for horses and burros is not a unique biological challenge. Two management methods, population control and proper distribution cover the principles of management for these animals. A flexible management plan is necessary to continue evaluation of factors affecting the animals in a fluctuating environment.

Since the horses and burros have a very limited amount of natural predators and few parasites to control the population, this leaves only the habitat as a natural limiting factor. Man has been the only controlling factor and since the passage of protective legislation, the increase has been allowed to go unchecked.

The horse is a large and extremely competetive herbivore and in this area has only the regulatory factors of disease and starvation placed on it. Habitat condition and animal condition are closely interrelated. Studies have shown the animal conditions lag behind a decline in habitat condition. This lag is extreme in horses and burros and the habitat will be seriously depleted before any effects are shown in the individual animal condition and herd characteristics.

Management alternatives to be considered were:

1. Control the population at the inventory level until all resource allocation has been made through the planning process.

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Management alternatives to be considered were:

1. Control the population at the inventory level until all recovery allocation has been made through the planning process.

2. Implement major range rehabilitation programs to provide additional forage and better distribution for increased populations.

3. Removal of all other competing animals.

4. Take no action.

5. Remove all horses.

The #5 Alternative would violate P.L. 92-195.

The #4 Alterniatve would not meet the objectives of this plan and would also violate the terms of the law.

The #3 Alternative would only provide a stop-gap measure and as populations increased it would soon reach a maximum level with no control and would also allow animals to become established in areas where they were not present at the time the law was passed.

The #2 Alternative would not completely conform to the law as it would still not allow a proper balance in the management of resources. This, as well as the environmental, funding limitations and other constraints, will still not meet the objectives of the plan and when fully implemented would still run out of available forage.

The first alternative of population control seems to be the only logical and practical way to meet the objectives of this plan.

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The first alternative of population control seems to be the only logical and practical way to meet the objectives of this plan.

## POPULATION CONTROL

As a population level for the herd management areas has not been established at this time, it is believed that populations should not be reduced below the level that was existant during the first inventory of February 1973. However, as the follow-up inventory in August 1973 showed an increase from 17 to 21 percent in the various areas, this annual increase should be removed until population levels have been established through the planning process in order to achieve balance with other resource uses.

The reduction of the various populations will follow in this order:

1. Removal of private animals claimed.
2. Removal of branded estray animals.
3. Removal of annual increase in numbers to maintain a base level of the February 1973 inventory.

POPULATION INCREASE

| Herd Mgt. Areas | Inv. Feb. 73 | Inv. Aug. 73 | Increase | Est. 74 | Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mtn. | 451 | 544 | 93 | 642 | 191 |
| High Rock | 136 | 177 | 41 | 209 | 73 |
| Fox-Hog Mtn. | 87 | 112 | 25 | 132 | 45 |
| Tuledad | 222 | 179 | -43 | 211 | -11 |
| New Years Lake | 31 | 60 | 29 | 71 | 40 |
| Twin Peaks | 739 | 1,491 | 752 | 1,759 | 1,020 |
| Ravendale | 5 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 6 |
| Shaffer Mtn. | 10 | 9 | -1 | 10 | 0 |
| Fort Sage Mtn. | 9 | 8 | -1 | 9 | 0 |
| Round Mtn. | 56 | 15 | -41 | 18 | -38 |
| | 1,746 | 2,605 | 859 | 3,072 | 1,326 |

Since both of these inventories were conducted before the claiming period for private animals and no gathering has been done we cannot assume that all of these animals are wild horses. But wild or private they are still making a use of the public land and control measures must be undertaken.

## POPULATION INCREASE

| Herd Mgt. Areas | Nov. Feb. '73 | Nov. Aug. '73 | Increase | Feb. '74 | Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cassidy Mts. | 491 | 594 | 93 | 642 | 101 |
| High Rock | 136 | 177 | 41 | 209 | 73 |
| Pine-Log Mts. | 87 | 112 | 25 | 132 | 45 |
| Tuledad | 222 | 179 | -43 | 211 | -11 |
| New Years Lake | 31 | 50 | 19 | 72 | 41 |
| Twin Peaks | 739 | 1,491 | 752 | 1,759 | 1,020 |
| Bawendale | 5 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 6 |
| Duffer Mts. | 18 | 9 | -9 | 10 | -8 |
| Fort Sage Mts. | 9 | 6 | -3 | 9 | 0 |
| Round Mtn. | 26 | 15 | -11 | 16 | -10 |
| | 1,764 | 2,653 | 889 | 3,072 | 1,308 |

Since both of these inventories were conducted before the planning period for private animals and no gathering has been done we cannot assume that all of these animals are wild horses. Due with or private they are still making a use of the public land and control measures must be undertaken.

## REMOVAL OF ANIMALS

1973

| Herd Management Area | Total | Adult | Young |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 93 | 3 | 90 |
| High Rock | 41 | 6 | 35 |
| Fox-Hog Mountain | 25 | 5 | 20 |
| New Years Lake | 29 | 20 | 9 |
| Twin Peaks | 752 | 457 | 295 |
| | 940 | 491 | 449 |

1974

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 191 | 93 | 98 |
| High Rock | 73 | 41 | 32 |
| Fox-Hog Mtn. | 45 | 25 | 20 |
| New Years Lake | 40 | 29 | 11 |
| Twin Peaks | 1,020 | 752 | 268 |
| | 1,369 | 940 | 429 |

These charts show the number of animals that need to be reduced in the various herd management areas to maintain the level of the first inventory. The young animals in the 1973 removal chart become adult animals in the estimated 1974 chart.

## REMOVAL OF ANIMALS

### 1973

| Herd Management Area | Total | Adult | Young |
|---|---|---|---|
| Granite Mountain | 97 | 3 | 94 |
| High Rock | 41 | 6 | 35 |
| Fox-Dog Mountain | 95 | 5 | 90 |
| Sev Tears Lake | 29 | 20 | 9 |
| Twin Peaks | 738 | 457 | 295 |
| | 980 | 491 | 489 |

### 1974

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Granite Mountain | 192 | 93 | 99 |
| High Rock | 73 | 41 | 32 |
| Fox-Dog Mtn. | 45 | 25 | 20 |
| Sev Tears Lake | 49 | 38 | 11 |
| Twin Peaks | 1,050 | 732 | 318 |
| | 1,389 | 940 | 449 |

These charts show the number of animals that need to be removed in the various herd management areas to maintain the level of the first inventory. The young animals in the 1973 removal chart become adult animals in the estimated 1974 chart.

## METHODS OF CONTROL

There are numerous known methods of control and several will be used as the limitations on some methods will not allow them to be used in every situation. These methods fall into two types, with one being the removal of live animals and the other being direct control by destroying live animals in place. Some of the more common methods of removing live animals are as follows:

a. Trapping

1. Dry

2. Water

b. Roping

c. Immobilizing

The Susanville District has a wide variation in habitat and areas of use, and will require the use of most of the methods. Once animals have been captured the branded estray animals will be turned over to the State for handling under the State estray laws and excess animals will be disposed of by placement into private management under cooperative agreement if possible. If this is not possible, then the excess animals will have to be destroyed and the carcass disposed of in accordance with State law as the present law does not allow these animals to be sold or the transfer of title to private persons.

## METHODS OF CONTROL

There are numerous known methods of control and several will be used as the limitations on some methods will not allow them to be used in every situation. These methods fall into two types, with one being the removal of live animals and the other being direct control by destroying live animals in place. Some of the more common methods of removing live animals are as follows:

a. Trapping

1. Dry

2. Water

b. Hoping

c. Immobilizing

The Somerville District has a wide variation in habitat and areas of use, and will require the use of most of the methods. Once animals have been captured the branded marine animals will be turned over to the State for handling under the State marine laws and ocean animals will be disposed of by placement into private management under cooperative agreement if possible. If this is not possible, then the ocean animals will have to be destroyed and the carcass disposed of in accordance with State law as the present law does not allow these animals to be sold or the transfer of title to private persons.

PROPOSED ACTION

This portion of the plan sets out what we believe to be the most feasible and logical approach to the problem facing the District in the management of horses and burros.

In order to meet the full long range objectives of the plan we face a tight time-frame where planning priorities have been established considering many other resource priorities such as energy related geothermal steam. However, many of the resource problem areas for other programs also are priorities in the wild horse program. Therefore, our schedule for completion of all 10 areas with wild horses will be:

Completion of Unit Resource Analysis - FY 74

Completion of *Management Framework Planning - FY 75
(*On all areas except Fort Sage)

Development of Activity Plans including Allotment Management Plans, Watershed Management Plans and Habitat Management Plans in FY 76-77.

Implementation - FY 77-78

We do plan to be able to begin stages of planning well in advance of the dates given. We have completed Management Framework Planning in the area including our number 2 priority area of Fox-Hog Mtn.

Therefore, we expect to place high priority on completing all Activity Plans for that area in FY 75. We should be able to begin formulation of plans in the Twin Peaks Area also in FY 75 depending on allocation of manpower and other competing priority programs.

In order to move on the short range objectives which we term our "zero population increase" objective we also spell out several "levels" or "banding" of capability and funding, these are:

1. Full gathering of animals and removal of estray and excess animals in all 10 herd management areas (which would cost approximately $480,000).
2. Full gathering of animals and removal of estrays and excess in the five problem areas (which would cost approximately $350,000).
3. Full gathering and removal of estrays and excess animals by unit based on funding available and priority of the area. In priority these are:
    1. Twin Peaks
    2. Fox-Hog Mountain
    3. Catnip Mountain
    4. High Rock
    5. New Years Lake

    (The cost of this alternative would range from $350,000 down to approximately $75-100,000).

4. Gathering and removal of enough animals in each of the problem areas to maintain the first inventory level regardless of whether the animal is estray, young or old (at approximately $150,000 in cost).

Significant lower costs in each level would be encountered if helicopters could be utilized. In order to do the complete job of planning and population control in all areas, we would need approximately $590,000 in the first year, and dropping to $350,000 annually thereafter.

## CATNIP

Measuring 594,560 acres the Catnip Mountain Area is 80% in the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range and 20% outside of the range. This area takes in the most northeastern part of the Surprise Resource Area and the Susanville District. Oregon serving as the northern boundary with the Virgin Valley serving as the eastern boundary. The western boundary is Calcutta Lake and Middle Lake with a southern boundary of Massacre Lake continuing to the southern line of the antelope range.

This area has year round springs and reservoirs in abundance in some areas and scarce in other areas. Plateaus and tableland take in a large acreage with a great deal of lava outcrops scattered throughout the area. Wet meadows are mixed conservatively through this country and are very vulnerable to over-use. This particular herd management area is the second largest in the Susanville District with Twin Peaks being first.

February '73 horse count totaled 451 horses with 400 adults and 51 young. Also, a count of 30 burros with 22 adults and 8 young were tallied. In August '73, 544 horses were counted with 454 adults and 90 young and a total of 7 burros which were all adults. Animal unit months for wild horses and burros combined totaled 6,888 annually for August 1973.

## CAPTIVE

Measuring 594,360 acres the Caribou Mountain Area is 402 in the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range and 192 smaller of the range. This area takes in the most northeastern part of the Virginia Mountain Area and the Gerlachville District. Bounded starting on the northern boundary with the Virginia Valley section as the eastern boundary. The western boundary is Massacre Lake and Middle Lake with a southern boundary of Massacre Lake continuing to the northern line of the antelope range.

This area has year round spring and characteristic in abundance in some areas and scarce in other areas. Pronghorn and tableland take on a fair average when a great deal of lava outcrops scattered throughout the area. Hot springs are found conservatively through this country and are very susceptible to over-use. This particular herd management area is the second largest in the Gerlachville District with Twin Peaks being first.

February '73 horse count totaled 451 horses with 402 adults and 51 young. Also, a count of 20 horses with 11 adults and 9 young were tallied. In August '73, 344 horses were counted with 294 adults and 50 young and a count of 7 horses which were all adults. Animal unit months for wild horses and burros combined totaled 6,522 annually for August 1973.

The deer and antelope in this area are taking 7,280 total AUM's off the range annually. Antelope total 800 during the summer months and 1500 during the winter. A deer population of 2,000 exists here year round.

Livestock are utilizing 21,095 actual AUM's annually with a 24,008 AUM carrying capacity. The base property qualifications are 27,321 AUM's with 25,057 "allowable use" AUM's.

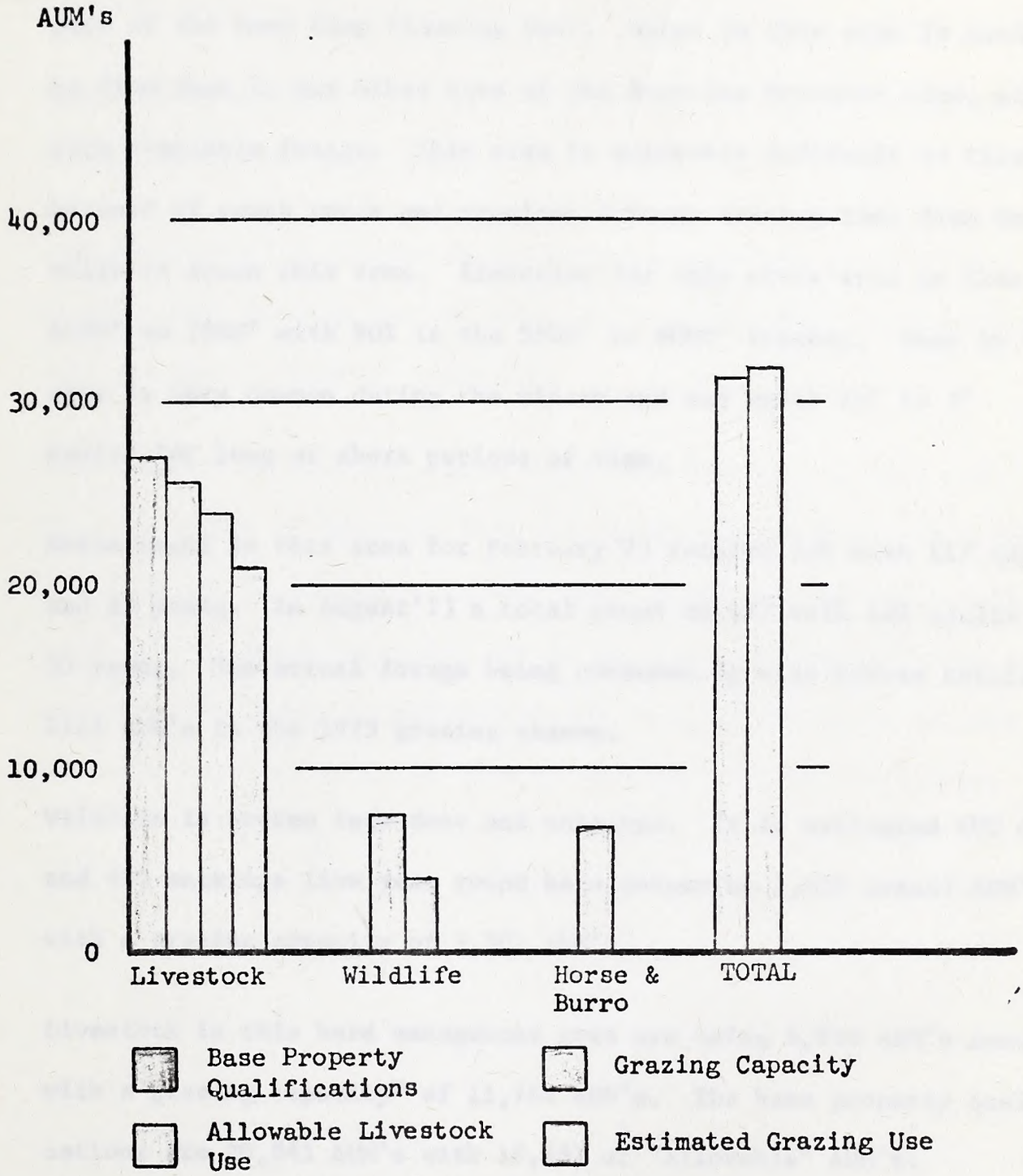
Erosion classification places 84% of this land in a "slight" erodability category. "Stable" classification includes 13% and the remaining 3% is "slight".

Range condition is in fair condition with the majority of it, 70%, in a static trend. Downward trend encompasses 27% of this land with only 3% in an upward direction.

After the August '73 count on wild horses in this area, it was realized that there were 93 head over the first inventory of February '73. Range condition is fair with mostly a static trend and erosion hazard slight. As of August '74 there will be 191 head over the original population with an annual 18% increase and a total of 6,888 AUM's being consumed.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Catnip Mountain



## HIGH ROCK

High Rock herd management area encompasses 231,000 acres of high sage brush land and low sage land on plateaus to steep and very rocky mountainous terrain. This area lies in the extreme eastern portion of the Massacre Planning Unit and part of the northeastern part of the Home Camp Planning Unit. Water in this area is harder to find than in any other area of the Surprise Resource Area, along with available forage. This area is extremely difficult to travel because of rough roads and requires 4 hours driving time from Cedarville to reach this area. Elevation for this whole area is from 5500' to 7000' with 90% in the 5500' to 6000' bracket. Snow in the area is very common during the winter and can reach 1½' to 3' easily for long or short periods of time.

Horse count in this area for February '73 totaled 136 with 117 adult and 19 young. In August '73 a total count of 177 with 142 adults and 35 young. The actual forage being consumed by wild horses totaled 2124 AUM's in the 1973 grazing season.

Wildlife is broken into deer and antelope. It is estimated 400 deer and 400 antelope live year round here consuming 1,920 actual AUM's with a grazing capacity of 3,501 AUM's.

Livestock in this herd management area are using 6,818 AUM's annually with a "grazing capacity" of 11,764 AUM's. The base property qualifications are 20,841 AUM's with 16,687 of "allowable" AUM's.

## HIGH ROCK

High Rock Game Management Area encompasses 231,000 acres of high range forest land and low range land on plateaus to steep and very rocky mountainous terrain. This area lies in the extreme eastern portion of the Nevada Hunting Unit and part of the northeastern part of the Zone Fishing Unit. Water in this area is scarce so find them in any point area of the Surprise Resource Area, along with available forage. This area is extremely difficult to travel because of rough roads and requires 4 hours driving time from Gerlerville to reach this area. Elevation for this game area is from 4000' to 7000' with 90% in the range 5000' to 6000' terrain. Snow in the area is very common during the winter and can reach 1½' to 2' depth for long or short periods of time.

Game count in this area for February '73 totaled 130 with 12' male and 18 young. In August '73 a total count of 177 with 146 adults and 31 young. The annual forage being utilized by wild horses totaled 2124 AUM's in the 1973 grazing season.

Habitat is shared into deer and antelope. It is estimated 150 deer and 400 antelope live year-round here requiring 1,700 animal units with a grazing capacity of 3,201 AUM's.

Livestock in this Herd Management area are using 8,912 AUM's annually with a "grazing capacity" of 11,761 AUM's. The base property qualifications are 20,841 AUM's with 26,187 as "allowable" AUM's.

Erosion classification of this area places this area with 71% "slight" erodability, 28% "moderate" erodability and a trace of "stable" soil.

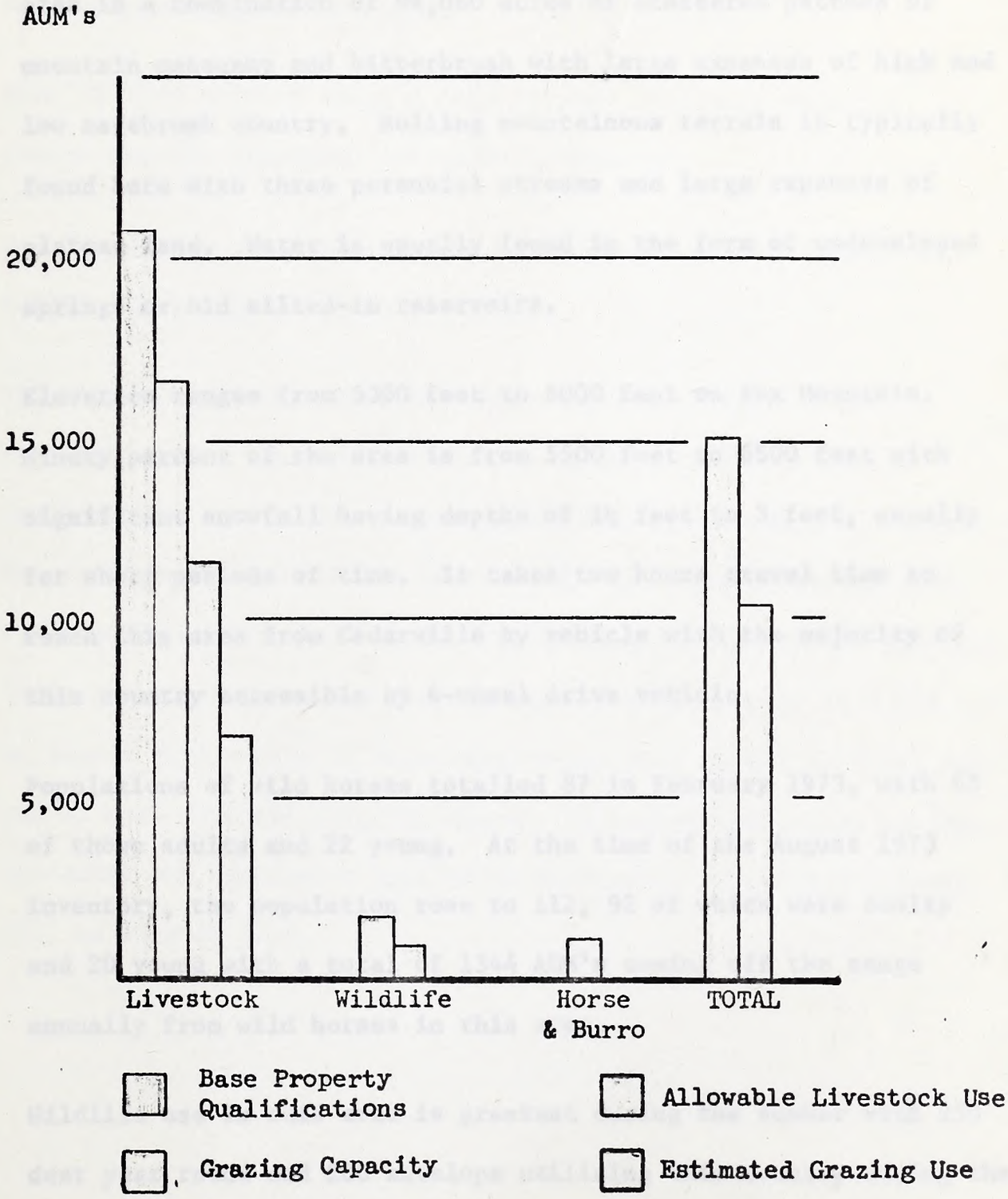
Range condition is fair to good with 46% in an upward trend, 46% static, and 8% downward trend.

Classification for erosion in this area places most of the area, 71%, in a "slight" erosion hazard, with 28% in a "moderate" classification, with a trace in "stable" condition.

As of August '73 the wild horse population herd was 41 head over the first inventory of February 1973 with 2,024 AUM's total. In August '74, with an 18% increase, it will be 73 head over and AUM's will total 2,124. Competition for forage has increased considerable in the area with 209 horses injected with 400 deer and 400 antelope year round and 6,818 more AUM's in the form of livestock during the summer.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

High Rock



## FOX-HOG MOUNTAIN

Bordered on the north by Little High Rock Canyon, west by Borwell Spring, east by High Rock Lake, and south by Fox Mountain. This area is a combination of 94,080 acres of scattered patches of mountain mahogany and bitterbrush with large expanses of high and low sagebrush country. Rolling mountainous terrain is typically found here with three perennial streams and large expanses of plateau land. Water is usually found in the form of undeveloped springs or old silted-in reservoirs.

Elevation ranges from 5300 feet to 8000 feet on Fox Mountain. Ninety percent of the area is from 5500 feet to 6500 feet with significant snowfall having depths of 1½ feet to 3 feet, usually for short periods of time. It takes two hours travel time to reach this area from Cedarville by vehicle with the majority of this country accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Populations of wild horses totalled 87 in February 1973, with 65 of those adults and 22 young. At the time of the August 1973 inventory, the population rose to 112, 92 of which were adults and 20 young with a total of 1344 AUM's coming off the range annually from wild horses in this area.

Wildlife use in this area is greatest during the summer with 250 deer year round and 200 antelope utilizing this country during the summer grazing season.

The range survey for livestock shows a grazing capacity of 5,631 AUM's for the Fox-Hog Mountain area with 7,958 actual AUM's consuming forage. Base property qualifications are 13,664 AUM's with allowable AUM's of 7,958.

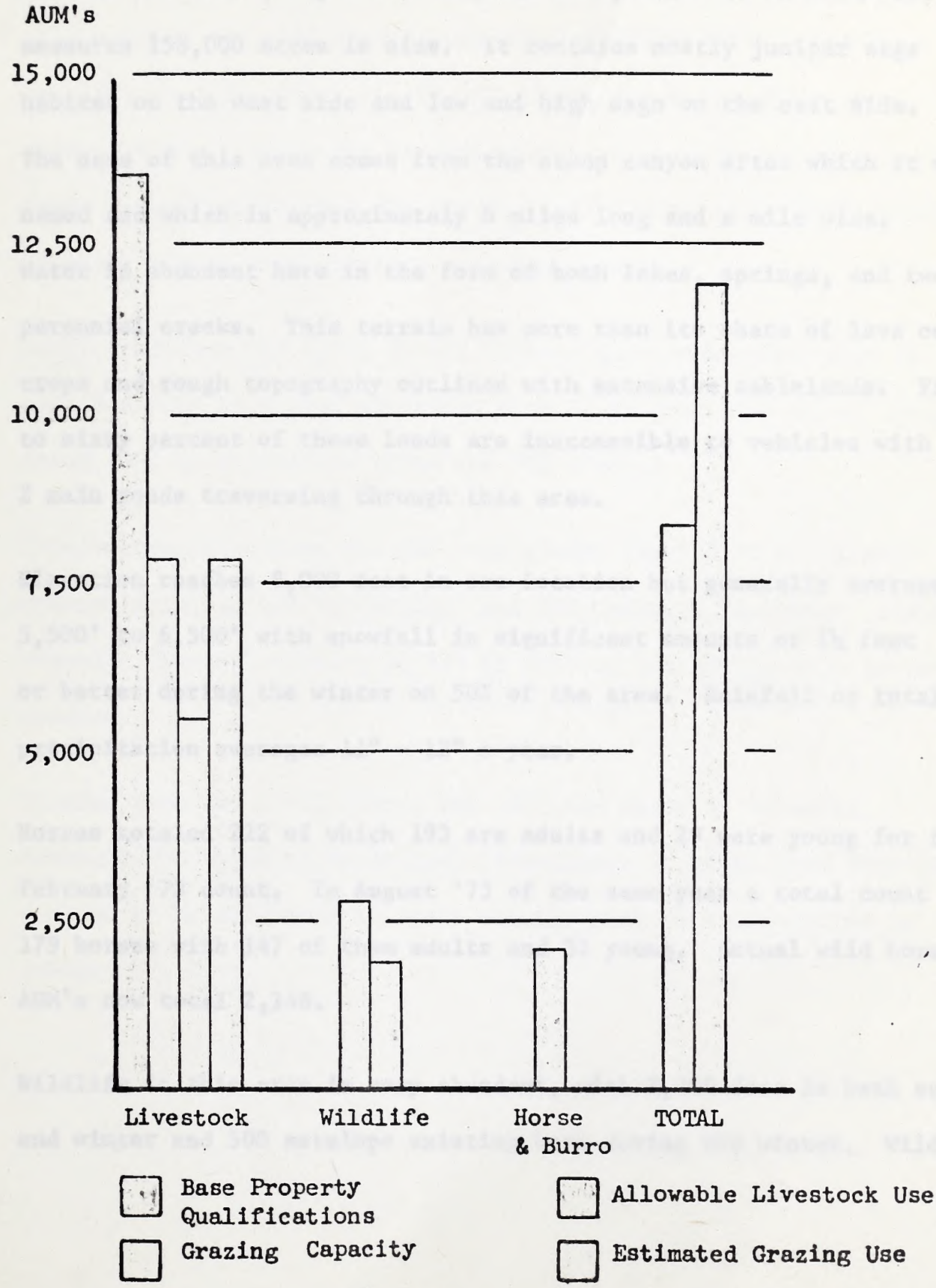
Most of this country rates a fair to poor condition with 59% static and the remaining 41% heading downward.

A 74% moderate erosion hazard is prevelent here, with 25% in a slight classification, and 1% stable.

This area is showing rapid deterioration with a fair to poor condition and a 74% moderate erosion hazard. Wildlife use is considerable during the summer, especially around the Fox Mountain - Hog Mountain area, with 250 deer and 200 antelope competing with 7,958 AUM's of livestock during the grazing season. As of February 1973, the first inventory, we had a total of 87 horses or 1,034 AUM's. In August 1973 a rise in horse population went to 112 or 1,344 AUM's and 25 head over the original count. By August 1974, with an 18% increase, the population will total 211 horses or 2,532 AUM's and will be over 45 head.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Fox-Hog Mtn.



## TULEDAD

This herd management area lies directly south of Lower Alkali Lake, east of Red Rock Lake, north of Burnt Lake, and west of Duck Flat and measures 158,000 acres in size. It contains mostly juniper sage habitat on the west side and low and high sage on the east side. The name of this area comes from the steep canyon after which it was named and which is approximately 6 miles long and a mile wide. Water is abundant here in the form of both lakes, springs, and two perennial creeks. This terrain has more than its share of lava outcrops and rough topography outlined with extensive tablelands. Fifty to sixty percent of these lands are inaccessible to vehicles with only 2 main roads traversing through this area.

Elevation reaches 8,000 feet in one location but generally averages 5,500' to 6,500' with snowfall in significant amounts of 1½ feet or better during the winter on 50% of the area. Rainfall or total precipitation averages 11" - 12" a year.

Horses totaled 222 of which 193 are adults and 29 were young for the February '73 count. In August '73 of the same year a total count of 179 horses with 147 of them adults and 32 young. Actual wild horse AUM's now total 2,148.

Wildlife in this area is very abundant, with 2,000 deer in both summer and winter and 500 antelope existing here during the winter. Wildlife

## TRUCKEE

This hard management area lies directly south of Lower Klamath Lake, west of Red Rock Butte, north of Water Lake, and west of Deep Flat and encompasses 128,000 acres in size. It contains mostly juniper and mahogany on the west side and low sagebrush on the east side. The name of this area comes from the acting Chief Truckee Indian who roamed and valiantly protected approximately 6 miles long and 4 miles wide. Water is abundant here in the form of pole lakes, springs, and two perennial creeks. This certain has been down the shape of lava outcrops and rough topography multiplied with extensive sagebrushes. Fifty to sixty percent of these lands are inaccessible to vehicles with only 2 main roads traversing through this area.

Elevation reaches 6,000 feet in one location but generally averages 5,500' to 6,300' with exposure in significant amounts of 1/4 foot or better during the winter on 30% of the area. Rainfall or snow precipitation averages 11" - 12" a year.

Horses totaled 172 of which 103 are adults and 39 were young for the February '75 count. In August '73 of the same year a total count of 125 horses with 107 of them adults and 32 young. Herd with horses 1981's was total 1,108.

Wildlife in this area is very abundant, with 3,000 deer in both summer and winter and 500 antelope existing here during the winter. Wildlife

cover is plentiful with plenty of juniper trees and a great deal of back country.

Licensed livestock consume 9,312 AUM's of forage annually here with a range surveyed grazing capacity of 9,909 AUM's. The base property qualifications are 23,105 AUM's with 9,994 AUM's of allowable use. Livestock in this area work over the springs and water holes extensively during the grazing season with additional strain on water coming from wildlife and wild horses.

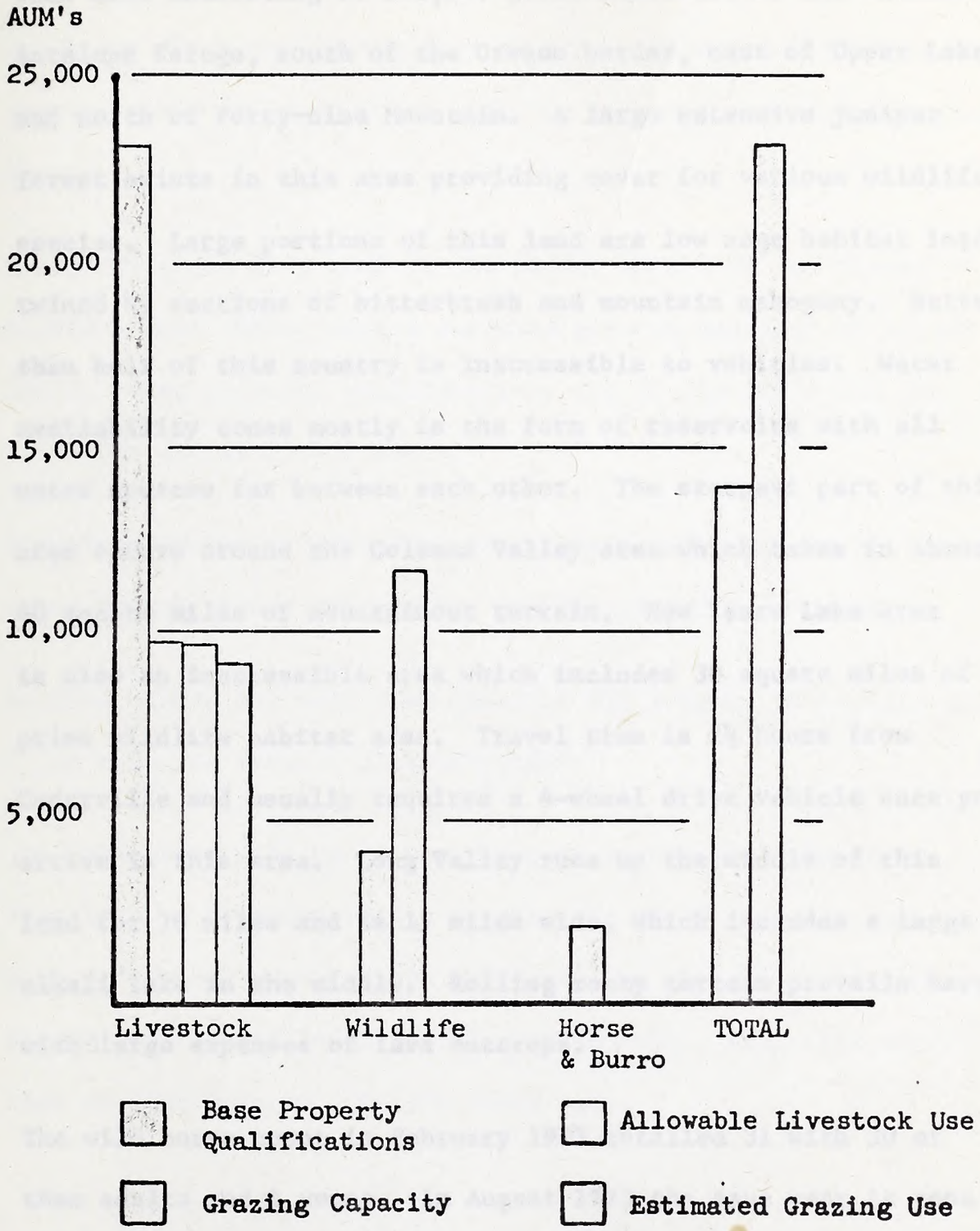
Range condition and trend in the Tuledad herd management area is placed mostly in a poor condition with 3% of this area in an upward trend, 27% in a downward trend and 70% static.

Erosion classification for the unit yields only 9% in a "slight" erosion porblem, 64% "moderate," and 27% having a "critical" erosion hazard. "Severe" erosion hazard is present but so far only in trace amounts.

Tuledad area has a -11 horses for 1974 and needs no trimming. Although, we think there is some interchange of herds from Twin Peaks area so it is difficult to state exactly what this population is doing.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Tuledad



## NEW YEARS LAKE

This area consisting of 343,040 acres lies west of the Sheldon Antelope Refuge, south of the Oregon border, east of Upper Lake, and north of Forty-nine Mountain. A large extensive juniper forest exists in this area providing cover for various wildlife species. Large portions of this land are low sage habitat intertwined by sections of bitterbrush and mountain mahogany. Better than half of this country is inaccessible to vehicles. Water availability comes mostly in the form of reservoirs with all water sources far between each other. The steepest part of this area occurs around the Coleman Valley area which takes in about 40 square miles of mountainout terrain. New Years Lake area is also an inaccessible area which includes 30 square miles of prime wildlife habitat area. Travel time is 2½ hours from Cedarville and usually requires a 4-wheel drive vehicle once you arrive in this area. Long Valley runs up the middle of this land for 70 miles and is 15 miles wide, which includes a large alkali lake in the middle. Rolling rocky terrain prevails here with large expanses of lava outcrops.

The wild horse count in February 1973 totalled 31 with 30 of them adults and 1 young. In August 1973 the same year it rose to 60 wild horses with 51 adults and 9 young. No burros were spotted in either of the counts.

## NEW YORK LAKE

This area consisting of 247,000 acres lies west of the Sawtooth Antelope Refuge, south of the Oregon border, east of Upper Lake, and north of Forty-Nine Mountain. A large extensive juniper forest exists in this area providing cover for various wildlife species. Large portions of this land are low sage habitat interrupted by sections of pinyon-juniper and mountain mahogany. Water than half of this country is inaccessible to vehicles. Water availability comes mostly in the form of reservoirs with all water sources far between each other. The steepest part of this area occurs around the Dolores Valley area which takes in about 40 square miles of mountainous terrain. New Years Lake area is also an inaccessible area which includes 30 square miles of prime wildlife habitat area. Travel time is 3½ hours from Cedarville and usually requires a 4-wheel drive vehicle once you arrive in this area. Long Valley runs up the middle of this land for 40 miles and is 15 miles wide, which includes a large alkali lake in the middle. Rolling rocky terrain prevails here with large expanses of lava outcrops.

The wild horse count in February 1973 revealed 31 with 20 of them adults and 1 young. In August 1973 the same year it rose to 60 wild horses with 51 adults and 9 young. No burros were spotted in either of the counts.

Elevation changes from 5500 feet in Long Valley to 7000 feet in the Coleman Creek area. Mostly the elevation falls between 5000 feet and 6500 feet with significant snowfall of 1½ to 3 feet in depth for short or long periods of time. Deer population is approximately 400 year round with 500 antelope spending the winter here.

Livestock graze this area in the summer months to the extent of 21,963 actual AUM's, with a surveyed grazing capacity of 18,160 AUM's. Base property qualifications are 32,214 AUM's and the allowable use is 23,158 AUM's.

A fair condition is prevalent in this area with 32% of the area in an upward trend, 48% static, and 20% plunging downward.

Erosion hazard for this area measured 87% slight, 8% stable, and 4% in moderate erosion classification.

For 1974 there will be 40 more head of horses than the first inventory of February 1973. At the rate of 18% increase annually with no natural predators in this area, an obvious problem of ever increasing competition for forage is present. This also means that we will have to trim 18% every year.

Elevation changes from 5500 feet in Long Valley to 7800 feet in the Coleman Creek area. Mostly the elevation falls between 5000 feet and 6500 feet with windthrow prevalent at 1ft to 3 feet in depth for short or long periods of time. Deer population is approximately 400 year round with 300 antlerless expanding the winter herd.

Livestock graze this area in the summer owing to the extent of 21,501 acres AUM's, with a maximum grazing capacity of 15,150 AUM's. Base property qualifications are 37,214 AUM's and the allowable use is 22,152 AUM's.

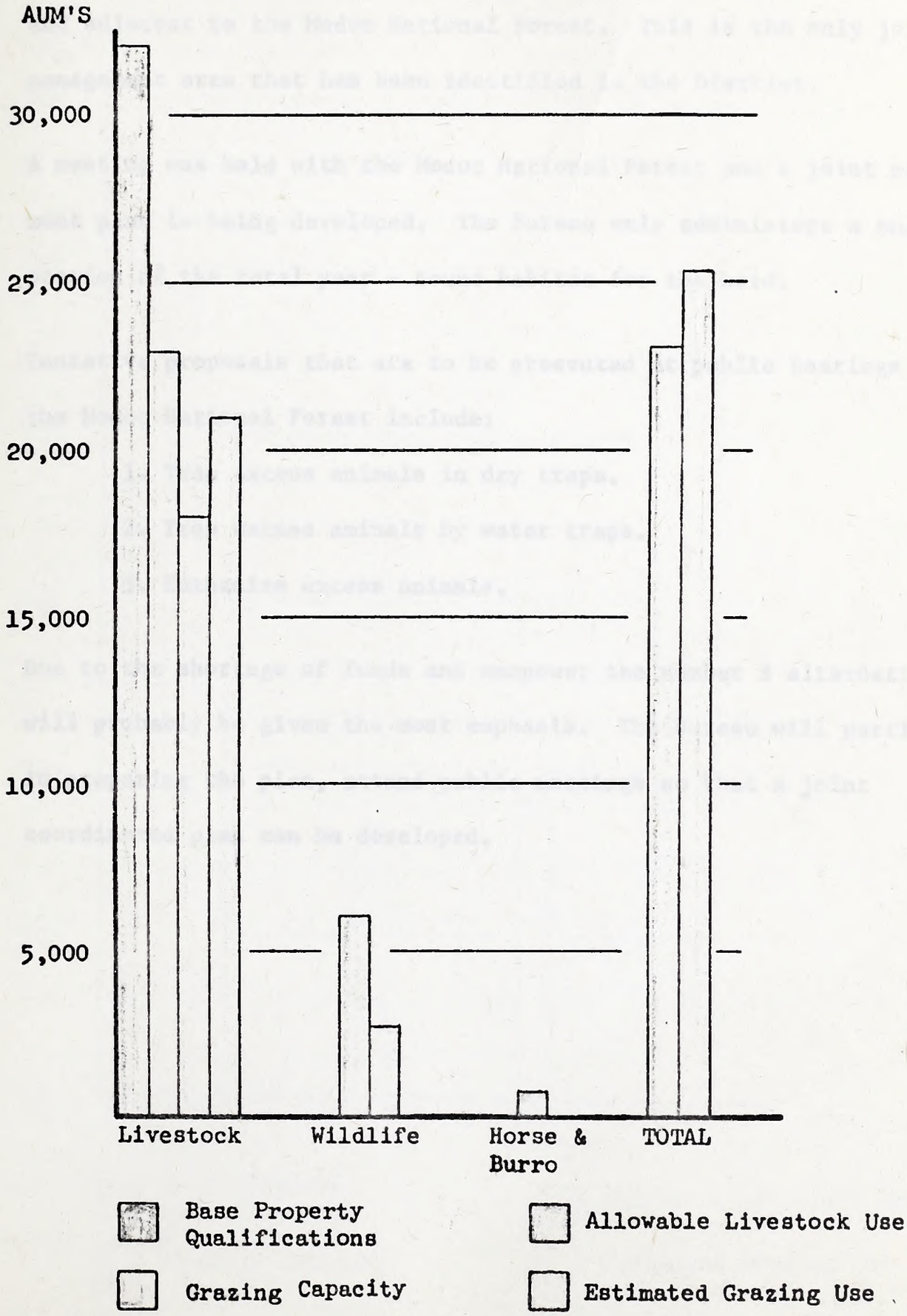
A fair condition is prevalent in this area with 34% of the area in an upwind cover; 46% stable; and 20% plunging downward.

Erosion hazard for this area measured 27% slight, 53 stable, and 13 in moderate erosion classification.

For 1974 there will be 40 more head of horses than the first inventory of January 1972. At the rate of 10% increase annually with no natural predators in this area, an obvious problem of ever increasing competition for forage is present. This also means that we will have to take 10% every year.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

New Years Lake



## ROUND MOUNTAIN

The Round Mountain area is located north of Alturas, California and adjacent to the Modoc National Forest. This is the only joint management area that has been identified in the District.

A meeting was held with the Modoc National Forest and a joint management plan is being developed. The Bureau only administers a small portion of the total year - round habitat for the herd.

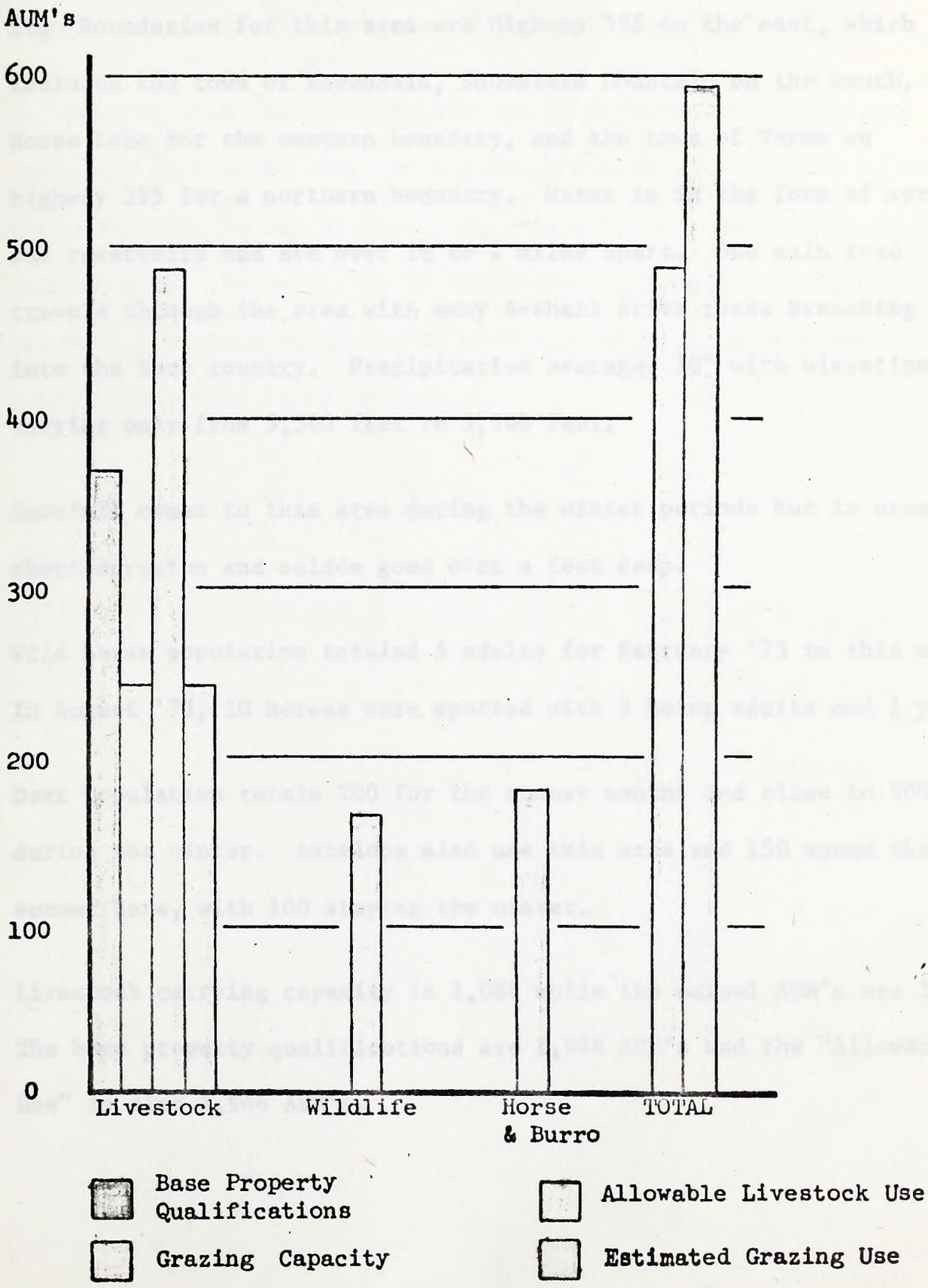
Tentative proposals that are to be presented at public hearings by the Modoc National Forest include:

1. Trap excess animals in dry traps.
2. Trap excess aminals by water traps.
3. Euthanize excess animals.

Due to the shortage of funds and manpower the number 3 alternative will probably be given the most emphasis. The Bureau will participate in preparing the plan, attend public meetings so that a joint coordinated plan can be developed.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Round Mountain



## RAVENDALE

Acres of land in this area total 28,649 and include mostly low and high sage brush type with widely scattered juniper trees throughout it. Boundaries for this area are Highway 395 on the east, which included the town of Ravendale, Snowstorm Mountain on the south, Horse Lake for the western boundary, and the town of Termo on highway 395 for a northern boundary. Water is in the form of springs and reservoirs and are over 1½ to 2 miles apart. One main road travels through the area with many 4-wheel drive roads branching off into the back country. Precipitation averages 10" with elevation varying only from 5,300 feet to 5,500 feet.

Snowfall comes to this area during the winter periods but is usually short duration and seldom goes over a foot deep.

Wild horse population totaled 5 adults for February '73 in this area. In August '73, 10 horses were spotted with 9 being adults and 1 young.

Deer population totals 200 for the summer months and rises to 500 during the winter. Antelope also use this area and 150 spend the summer here, with 100 staying the winter.

Livestock carrying capacity is 1,086 while the actual AUM's are 1,891. The base property qualifications are 1,946 AUM's and the "Allowable Use" is also 1,946 AUM's.

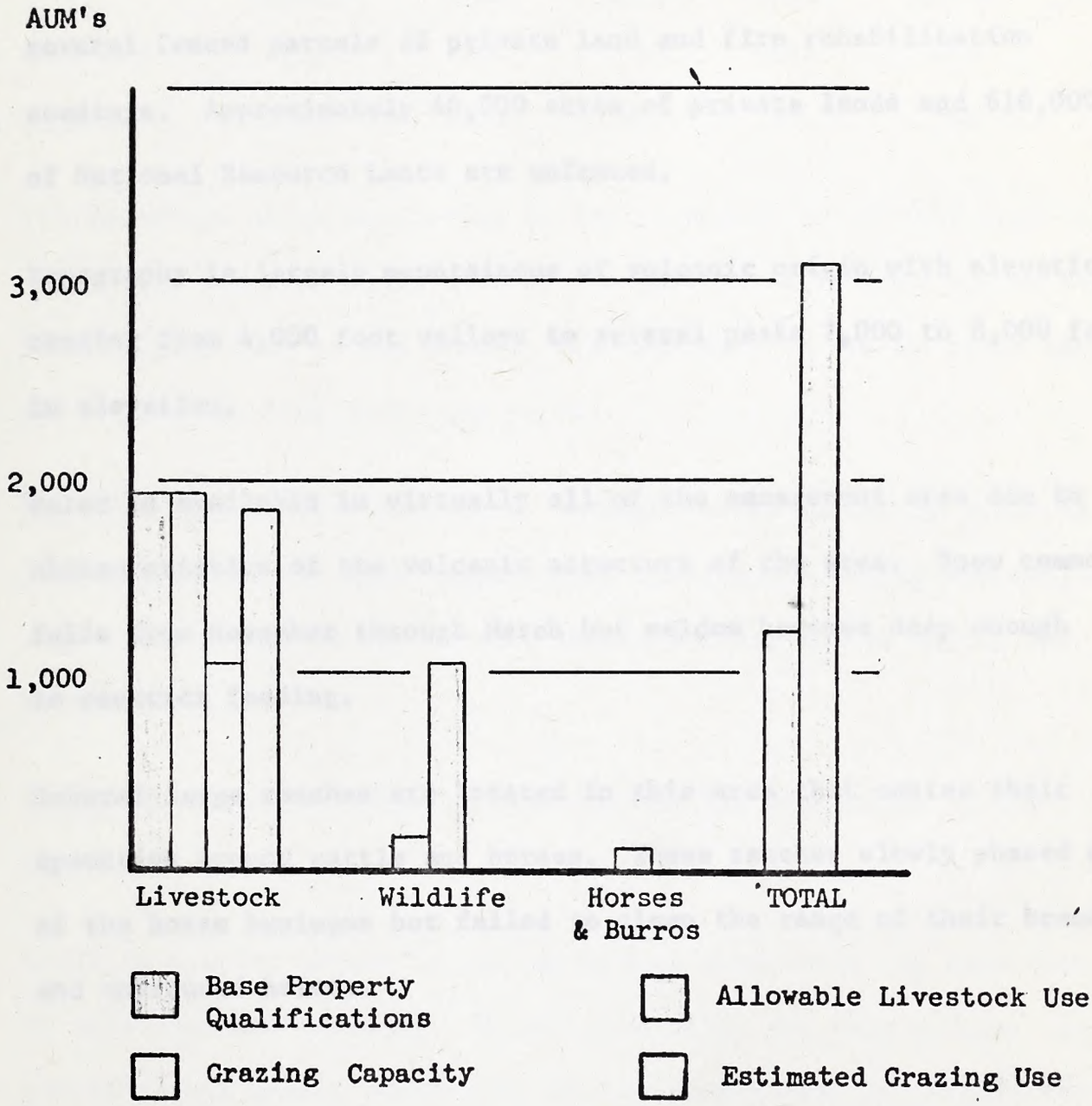
Condition of this area is rated "fair" with 30% in an upward trend, 10% downward, and the majority of the land in a static trend.

Erosion hazard in this area is 65% "slight" and 35% "stable."

In order to hold the horse population to coincide with the first inventory we need to take off the range 6 head of horses in 1974. This area will be one of our lower priority areas as far as cutting numbers down. It must also be remembered that when the horse herds are over a minimal amount it is more economical to manage that excess number then, than it is to wait.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Ravendale



## TWIN PEAKS HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

The Twin Peaks Herd Management Area consists of an area 60 miles long and 30 miles wide encompassing 773,500 acres of National Resource Lands.

This herd management area has the exterior boundaries fenced plus several fenced parcels of private land and fire rehabilitation seedings. Approximately 40,000 acres of private lands and 616,000 of National Resource Lands are unfenced.

Topography is largely mountainous of volcanic origin with elevations ranging from 4,000 foot valleys to several peaks 7,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation.

Water is available in virtually all of the management area due to the characteristics of the volcanic structure of the area. Snow commonly falls from November through March but seldom becomes deep enough to restrict feeding.

Several large ranches are located in this area that center their operation around cattle and horses. These ranches slowly phased out of the horse business but failed to clean the range of their branded and unbranded horses.

Estimates of branded horses remaining on the National Resource Lands are approximately 300 head.

An intensive survey of the area in February of 1973 and again in August of 1973 showed the following population and age classes.

| | Horses | | | Burros | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Adult | Young | Total | Adult | Young |
| February | 739 | 686 | 53 | 167 | 145 | 22 |
| August | 1491 | 1196 | 295 | 104 | 85 | 19 |

The increased horse population is due partially to 100-150 head that drift from the Winnemucca side of the Buffalo Hills area and 40 head from Tuledad area to the north. The remainder is due to birth rate and a possible 6-8% inventory error.

The burro population decrease is thought to be inventory error as burros disperse and seek remote areas and canyons during the hot, dry months and their coloration make them difficult to see during the summer months.

Annual increase for horses is 20% and 18% for the burros of the total population.

Wildlife species abound in the management area, with big game consisting of mule deer and antelope. Upland game birds are sage grouse, chuckar, partridge and quail. Waterfowl utilize meadows and reservoirs that dot the area. Many other species of small game, songbirds and reptiles abound to fill nearly every ecological niche.

Estimates of annual burrow trapping on the National Preserve lands are approximately 200 head.

An intensive survey of the area in February of 1973 and again in August of 1973 showed the following population and age classes.

| | Burros | | | Burros | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Adult | Young | Total | Adult | Young |
| February | 739 | 664 | 75 | 167 | 143 | 24 |
| August | 1041 | 1196 | 245 | 106 | 83 | 19 |

The increased burro population is due partially to 100-130 head that drift from the Nipomuceno side of the Salinas Dilla area and 40 head from Tulares area to the north. The remainder is due to birth rate and a possible 5-6% immigrant rate.

The burro population decreases in drought as the immigrant rate is better climates and rock terrain-areas and dropped during cold but, dry months and their population make them difficult to pen during the summer months.

Annual increase for burros is 20% and 12% for the burros of the local population.

Wildlife species abound in the management area, with big game consisting of mule deer and antelope. Upland game birds are dove, quail, chukar, partridge and quail. Nonrelated utility meadows and numerous ponds are area. Many other species of small game, amphibia and reptiles abound to fill nearly every ecological niche.

Population estimates based upon data collected from the Nevada and California Depts. of Fish and Game plus data collected by B.L.M. biologists are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Deer | 7,000 Spring, Summer, Fall | 7 Months Season |
| | 25,000 Winter | 5 Months |
| Antelope | 400 Spring, Summer, Fall | |
| | 900 Winter | |

These populations reflect the migrations from higher elevations to the lower and generally snow free bench lands along the Smoke Creek drainage and Smoke Creek Desert. These are also the areas where the high horse, burro and bird populations were noted.

Livestock had utilized the area at a heavy stocking rate until the area was adjudicated in 1968 and a reduction of 36.8% was imposed. Current livestock use in cattle except for two sheep operators.

Substantial non-use has been taken over the last 5 years (approximately 50%) due to a court order in one case and legal dispute over ownership in another case. This has resulted in an increase in condition and trend in the southern portion of the area. It should be noted that the area does not support a large horse or deer population but does have approximately 900 head antelope wintering population.

Population estimates based upon data collected from the Nevada and California Depts. of Fish and Game plus data collected by B.L.M. biologists are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Deer | 7,000 Spring, Summer, Fall | 7 Months Season |
| | 25,000 Winter | 5 Months |
| Antelope | 400 Spring, Summer, Fall | |
| | 900 Winter | |

These populations reflect the migrations from higher elevations to the lower and generally snow free bench lands along the Smoke Creek drainage and Smoke Creek Desert. These are also the areas where the high horse, burro and bird populations were noted.

Livestock had utilized the area at a heavy stocking rate until the area was adjudicated in 1968 and a reduction of 36.8% was imposed.

Current livestock use is cattle except for two sheep operators.

Substantial non-use has been taken over the last 5 years (approximately 30%) due to a court order in one case and legal dispute over ownership in another case. This has resulted in an increase in condition and trend in the southern portion of the area. It should be noted that the area does not support a large horse or deer population but does have approximately 200 head antelope wintering population.

Watershed conditions are generally good even with the heavy use due to a combination of factors. First, the volcanic soils are covered with rocks that hold the soil in place and provide barriers to rapid runoff. The area is semi-arid with rainfall varying from 14" at the higher peaks to near 8 inches at the foothills of the Smoke Creek Desert. This precipitation occurs as fall rain, winter snows and occasionally heavy amounts in thunderstorms during the summer months. Sagebrush, juniper trees, grasses and rocks are effective in holding a static watershed condition except in areas where livestock, horses and wildlife concentrate or geologic erosion exists.

Approximately 79% of the area is stable or slightly eroding.

20% Moderate erosion

1% Critical erosion

Forage conditions can be explained with utilization and trend correlated with actual use. These factors appear in the table below.

| | Forage Consumed 1973 | Non-Use |
|---|---|---|
| Animal | AUM's | AUM's |
| Livestock | 19,249 | 24,639 |
| Wildlife | 37,460 | |
| Horses & Burros | 20,892 | |
| | 77,601 | |

| Forage Available 1964 Survey | |
|---|---|
| Livestock Forage | 39,988 |
| Wildlife Forage | 3,900 |
| | 43,888 |

Watershed conditions are generally good even with the heavy use due to a combination of factors. First, the volcanic soils are covered with rocks that hold the soil in place and provide barriers to rapid runoff. The area is semi-arid with rainfall varying from 16" at the higher peaks to near 8 inches at the foothills of the Snake Creek Desert. This precipitation occurs as fall rain, winter snows and occasionally heavy showers in thunderstorms during the summer months. Sagebrush, juniper trees, grasses and forbs are effective in holding a stable watershed condition except in areas where livestock, horses and wildlife concentrate or geologic erosion exists.

Approximately 70% of the area is stable or slightly eroding.

20% Moderate erosion

10 Critical erosion

Forage conditions can be explained with utilization and trend correlated with actual use. These factors appear in the table below.

| | Forage Consumed 1973 | Non-Use |
|---|---|---|
| Animal | AUM's | AUM's |
| Livestock | 19,249 | 54,039 |
| Wildlife | 37,460 | |
| Horses & Burros | 10,242 | |
| | 71,951 | |

Forage Available 1974 Season

| | |
|---|---|
| Livestock Forage | 30,508 |
| Wildlife Forage | 7,000 |
| | 43,508 |

Studies

| Utilization | | Condition | | Trend | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heavy | 30% | Satisfactory | 50% | Up | 56% |
| Moderate | 30% | Unsatisfactory | 50% | Static | 35% |
| Light | 40% | | | Down | 9% |

The above figures show that livestock are using only 48% of the AUM's adjudicated. This use is being made in the northern half of the area. When we consider all species of animals we find that even with 50% allowable use by livestock 33,700 AUM's more are consumed than is indicated as available for proper utilization and range management and is reflected in the 50% unsatisfactory range condition.

Livestock use that has been suspended by court order will be activated during the 1974 grazing season and with the animal increase in horse numbers we expect a forage consumption of over 100,000 AUM's during the 1974 grazing season.

Utilization, condition and trend indicate that over-utilization is occuring in the northern and eastern portion of the area. The southern portion that has been under non-use will now begin to show the effects of the increased stocking rates with an anticipated lowering in condition and trend.

Livestock operators have already faced a substantial reduction in livestock use on the Federal Range. The Federal Range is the key to their survival and consequently any further reduction will meet with

Stocks

| Utilization | Condition | Trend |
|---|---|---|
| Heavy 20% | Satisfactory 50% | Up 5% |
| Moderate 30% | Unsatisfactory 50% | Stable 85% |
| Light 40% | | Down 9% |

The above figures show that livestock are using only 30% of the AUM's authorized. This was in spite of a drought half of the area. When we compare all species of animals we find that even with 50% allowable use of livestock 35,000 AUM's more are consumed than is authorized as available for proper utilization and range management and is reflected in the 50% unsatisfactory range condition.

Livestock use that has been suspended by court order will be restocked during the 1974 grazing season and with the animal increase in horse numbers we expect a forage consumption of over 100,000 AUM's during the 1974 grazing season.

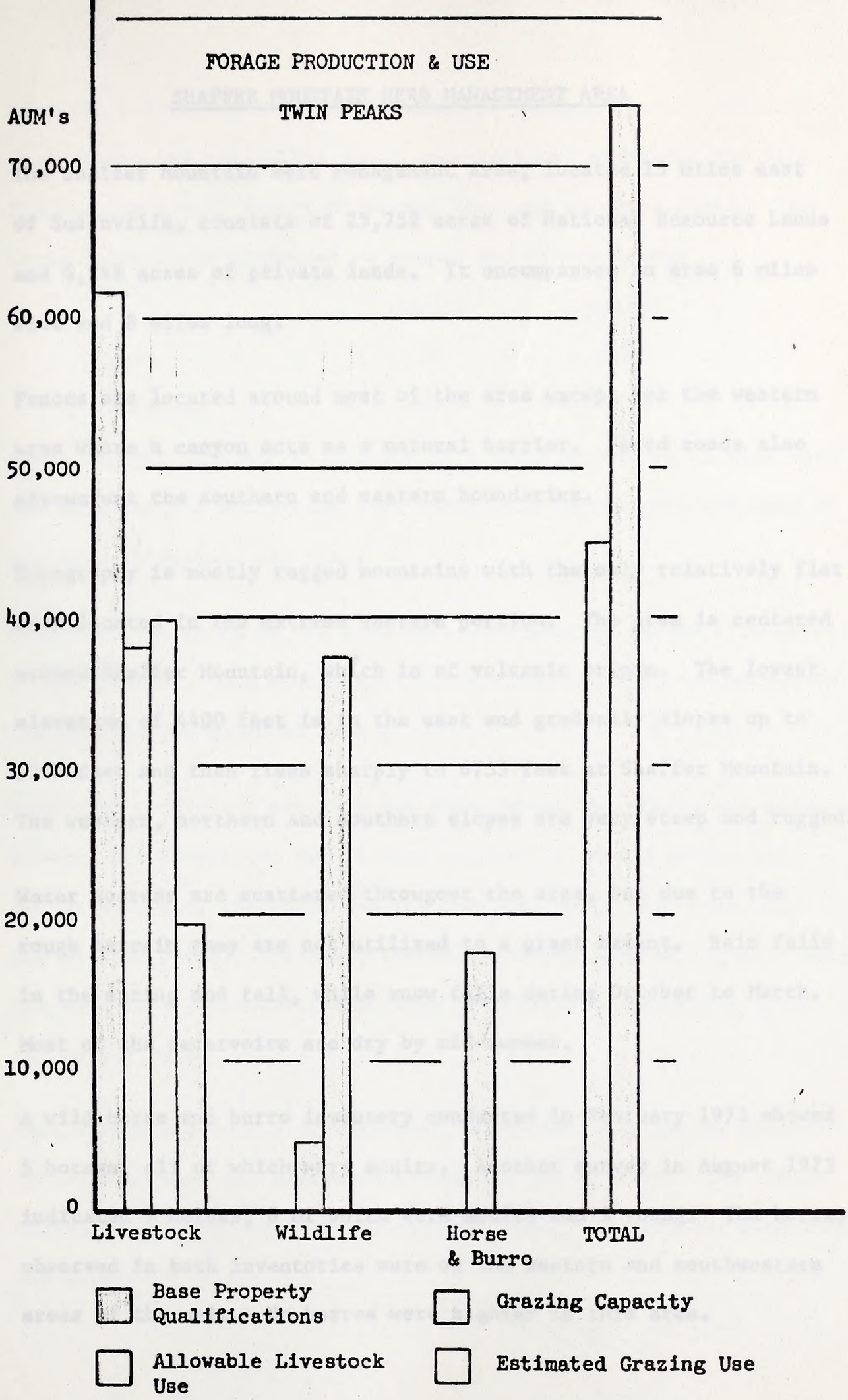
Utilization, condition and trend indicate that over-utilization is occurring in the northern and eastern portion of the area. The southern portion that has been under non-use will now begin to show the effects of the increased stocking rates with an anticipated lowering in condition and trend.

Livestock operators have already faced a substantial reduction in livestock use on the Federal Range. The Federal Range is the key to their survival and consequently any further reduction will meet with

extreme opposition.

Horses have been legislated to occupy a place on the range in harmony with their surroundings and if the population of horses is to be held at the level as of the passage of the act we estimate that 750 horses must be removed from the management area during 1974.

A new winter survey is necessary to determine if the burro population has increased and if so, then reductions will be necessary to keep their numbers in check.


FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE
TWIN PEAKS
AUM's
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
Livestock
Wildlife
Horse & Burro
TOTAL
Base Property Qualifications
Grazing Capacity
Allowable Livestock Use
Estimated Grazing Use

## SHAFFER MOUNTAIN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

The Shaffer Mountain Herd Management Area, located 15 miles east of Susanville, consists of 25,752 acres of National Resource Lands and 6,248 acres of private lands. It encompasses an area 6 miles wide and 8 miles long.

Fences are located around most of the area except for the western area where a canyon acts as a natural barrier. Paved roads also circumvent the southern and eastern boundaries.

Topography is mostly rugged mountains with the only relatively flat area located in the extreme eastern portion. The area is centered around Shaffer Mountain, which is of volcanic origin. The lowest elevation of 4400 feet is in the east and gradually slopes up to 5200 feet and then rises sharply to 6735 feet at Shaffer Mountain. The western, northern and southern slopes are very steep and rugged. Water sources are scattered througout the area, but due to the rough terrain they are not utilized to a great extent. Rain falls in the spring and fall, while snow falls during October to March. Most of the reservoirs are dry by mid-summer.

A wild horse and burro inventory conducted in February 1973 showed 5 horses, all of which were adults. Another survey in August 1973 indicated 9 horses, 8 of which were adults and 1 young. The horses observed in both inventories were on the western and southwestern areas of the unit. No burros were sighted in this area.

## SHAFFER MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Shaffer Mountain Herd Management Area, located 13 miles east of Summerville, consists of 25,752 acres of National Resource Lands and 5,248 acres of private lands. It encompasses an area 6 miles wide and 8 miles long.

Fences are located around most of the area except for the western area where a canyon acts as a natural barrier. Paved roads also circumvent the southern and eastern boundaries.

Topography is mostly rugged mountains with the only relatively flat area located in the extreme eastern portion. The area is centered around Shaffer Mountain, which is of volcanic origin. The lowest elevation of 4400 feet is in the east and gradually slopes up to 5200 feet and then rises sharply to 6733 feet at Shaffer Mountain. The western, northern and southern slopes are very steep and rugged.

Water sources are scattered throughout the area, but due to the rough terrain they are not utilized to a great extent. Rain falls in the spring and fall, while snow falls during October to March. Most of the reservoirs are dry by mid-summer.

A wild horse and burro inventory conducted in February 1973 showed 5 horses, all of which were adults. Another survey in August 1973 indicated 9 horses, 8 of which were adults and 1 young. The horses observed in both inventories were on the western and southwestern areas of the unit. No burros were sighted in this area.

Wildlife species include deer, antelope, rabbit, coyote, chukar, sage grouse and many other small game species, birds and reptiles. The area is a very important winter deer and antelope range. The table below shows estimates of summer and winter herds:

| | Summer | Winter |
|---|---|---|
| Deer | 50 | 1800 |
| Antelope | 200 | 300 |

These figures indicate that there is a heavy migration of deer into the area for the winter and that there is a fairly constant herd of antelope throughout the year.

Livestock operators in the area have been grazing cattle from April 1 to August 31. One sheep band trails along the northern border of the area in the month of June.

Watershed conditions are good and even though the slopes are steep, erosion has stabilized due to good vegetative ground cover, the porous nature of the soils and the numerous rocks that help hold the soil in place. The soils are shally rocky loam of volcanic origin. The area is a semi-desert type with precipitation averaging 10-12 inches per year.

Forage consists mainly of sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, cheatgrass, bluegrass and scattered patches of bitterbrush. The tables below show forage available, forage consumed, utilization, condition and trend.

Wildlife species include deer, antelope, rabbit, coyote, chukar, mourning dove and many other small game species, birds and reptiles. The area is a very important winter deer and antelope range. The table below shows variations of summer and winter herds:

| | Summer | Winter |
|---|---|---|
| Deer | 50 | 1800 |
| Antelope | 200 | 900 |

These figures indicate that there is a heavy migration of deer into the area for the winter and that there is a fairly constant herd of antelope throughout the year.

Livestock operations in the area have been grazing cattle from April 1 to August 31. The sheep herd winds along the northern border of the area in the month of June.

Waterhole conditions are good and even though the climate are steep, erosion has stabilized due to good vegetative ground cover, the porous nature of the soils and the numerous rocks that help hold the soil in place. The soils are shallow rocky loam of volcanic origin. The area is a semi-desert type with precipitation averaging 10-12 inches per year.

Forage consists mainly of sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, cheatgrass, bluegrass and scattered patches of bitterbrush. The table below show forage available, forage consumed, utilization, condition and trend.

Forage Available, 1960 Survey:

| Animal | AUM's |
|---|---|
| Livestock | 3133 |
| Wildlife | 280 |
| Total | 3513 |

Forage Consumed 1973:

| Animal | AUM's | Non-Use |
|---|---|---|
| Livestock | 1612 | 0 |
| Wildlife | | |
| Horses | 108 | |

| Utilization | Condition | Trend |
|---|---|---|
| Heavy 30% | Poor 0% | Down 2% |
| Moderate 30% | Fair 28% | Static 62% |
| Light 40% | Good 72% | Up 38% |

The tables indicate that there has been excess livestock forage which is reflected in the good range condition and trend. What is not readily reflected by the tables is the concentration of cattle in the lower flatter areas where heavy utilization occurs.

Forage Available, 1960 Survey:

| Animal | AUM's |
|---|---|
| Livestock | 3135 |
| Wildlife | 270 |
| Total | 3513 |

Forage Consumed 1971:

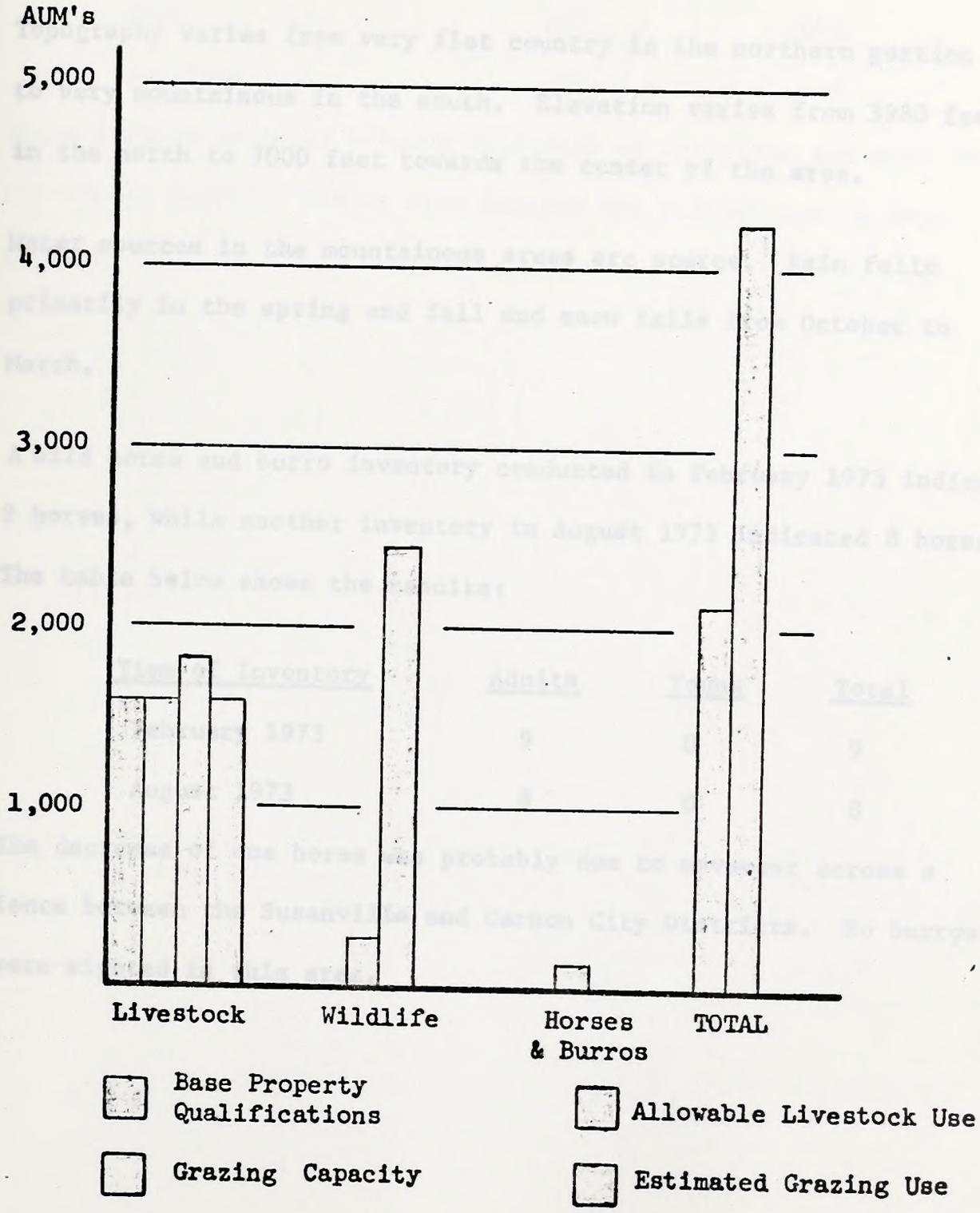
| Animal | AUM's | Non-Use |
|---|---|---|
| Livestock | 1612 | 0 |
| Wildlife | | |
| Horses | 105 | |

| Utilization | Condition | Trend |
|---|---|---|
| Heavy 30% | Poor 0% | Down 2% |
| Moderate 30% | Fair 28% | Static 42% |
| Light 40% | Good 72% | Up 38% |

The tables indicate that there has been excess livestock forage which is reflected in the good range condition and trend. What is not readily reflected by the tables is the concentration of cattle in the lower Clarkes area where heavy utilization occurs.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Shaffer Mtn.



## FORT SAGE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

The Fort Sage Herd Management Area, located 42 miles southeast of Susanville, consists of 17,210 acres of Natural Resource Lands. It encompasses an area 6 miles wide and 8 miles long.

Topography varies from very flat country in the northern portion to very mountainous in the south. Elevation varies from 3980 feet in the north to 7000 feet towards the center of the area.

Water sources in the mountainous areas are scarce. Rain falls primarily in the spring and fall and snow falls from October to March.

A wild horse and burro inventory conducted in February 1973 indicated 9 horses, while another inventory in August 1973 indicated 8 horses. The table below shows the results:

| Time of Inventory | Adults | Young | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 1973 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| August 1973 | 8 | 0 | 8 |

The decrease of one horse was probably due to movement across a fence between the Susanville and Carson City Districts. No burros were sighted in this area.

## FORT SAGE WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Fort Sage Herd Management Area, located 45 miles southeast of Susanville, consists of 17,210 acres of Natural Resource Lands. It encompasses an area 5 miles wide and 8 miles long.

Topography varies from very flat country in the northern portion to very mountainous in the south. Elevation varies from 3980 feet in the north to 7000 feet towards the center of the area.

Water sources in the mountainous areas are scarce. Rain falls primarily in the spring and fall and snow falls from October to March.

A wild horse and burro inventory conducted in February 1972 indicated 9 horses, while another inventory in August 1973 indicated 8 horses. The table below shows the results:

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| February 1972 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
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The decrease of one horse was probably due to movement across a fence between the Susanville and Carson City Districts. No burros were sighted in this area.

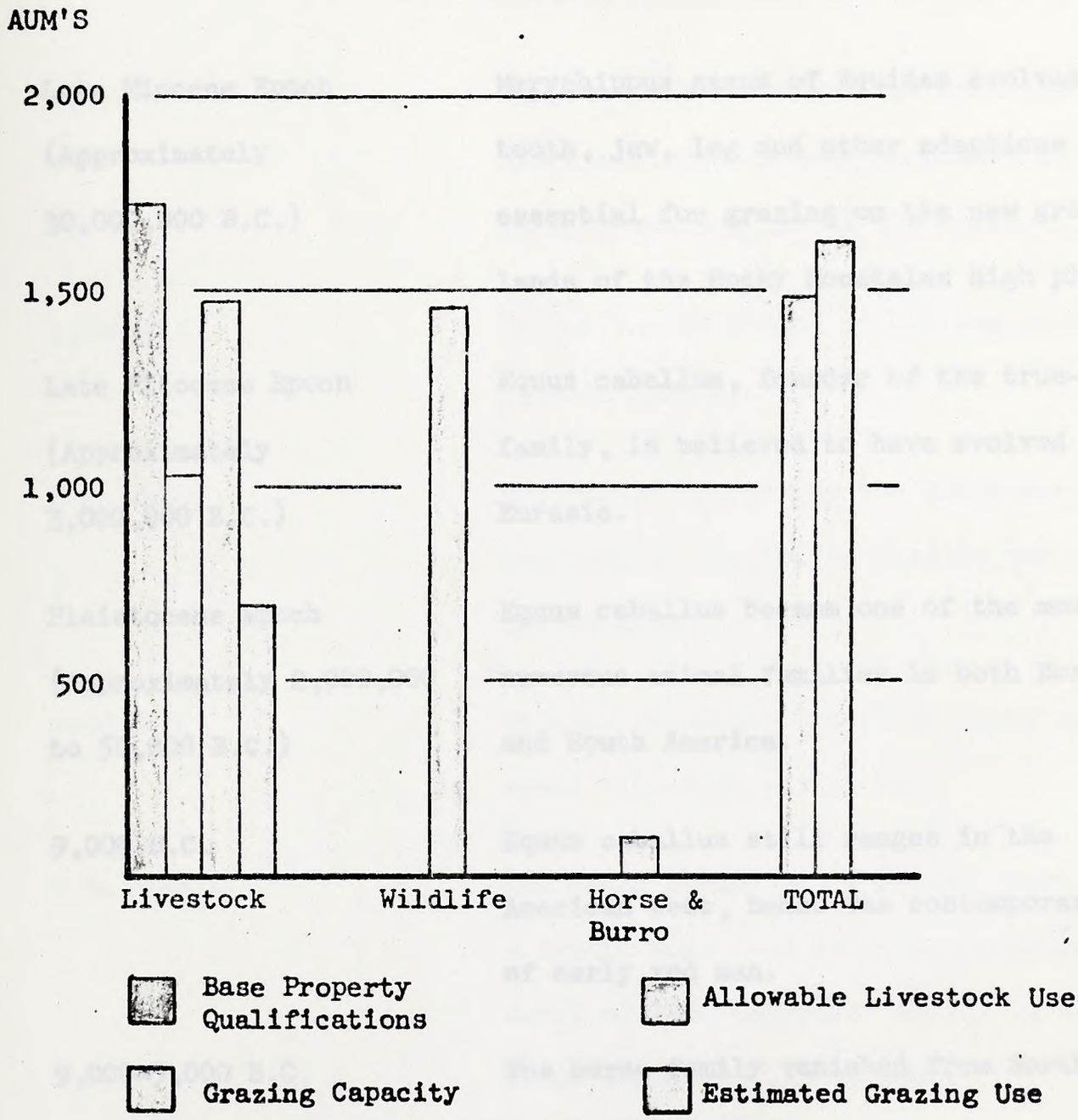
Wildlife species include deer, antelope, small game, birds and reptiles. The area is a very important deer winter range. The table below shows estimated summer and winter herds:

| | Summer | Winter |
|---|---|---|
| Deer | 200 | 1000 |
| Antelope | 50 | 0 |

These figures indicate a heavy migration of deer into the area for the winter months. During hard winters the numbers can be even greater.

FORAGE PRODUCTION & USE

Ft. Sage



HISTORY OF THE HORSE IN AMERICA

| | |
|---|---|
| Early Eocene Epoch (approximately 55,000,000 B.C.) | The davin horse, Eohippus (i.e., Hyracotherrium) browsed in tropical jungles that covered the Laramie Plain and other basins of the American West. |
| Late Miocene Epoch (Approximately 30,000,000 B.C.) | Merychippus genus of Equidae evolved tooth, jaw, leg and other adaptions essential for grazing on the new grass-lands of the Rocky Mountains high plain. |
| Late Pliocene Epoch (Approximately 3,000,000 B.C.) | Equus caballus, founder of the true-horse family, is believed to have evolved in Eurasia. |
| Pleistocene Epoch (Approximately 2,000,000 to 50,000 B.C.) | Equus caballus became one of the most numerous animal families in both North and South America. |
| 9,000 B.C. | Equus caballus still ranges in the American West, hence was contemporary of early red man. |
| 9,000-5,000 B.C. | The horse family vanished from North and South America. |

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| 9,000-5,000 B.C. | The horse family vanished from North and South America. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 6,000-5,000 B.C. | A great natural catastrophe, perhaps the Deluge reported in Bible, Karan, etc., destroyed the Alaska-Siberia isthmus, created Bering Strait, and halted all land animal migrations between Eurasia and the New World. |
| 3,000 B.C. | Broncobustus on steppes between the Black and Caspian Seas succeeded in first domestication of the horse. |
| 2,000 B.C. | Tribes in the Danube Valley had domesticated horses. |
| 1720 B.C. | The Hyksos introduced the horse-powered two-wheeled chariot to warfare and conquered Egypt. |
| 1000 B.C. | Chinese perfected the first light cavalry, armed with bows and arrows. |
| A.D. 50-100 | The first horseshoe, a leather boot with a bronze sole, was invented to protect the hoofs of mail carriers' mounts on the stone surfaced vias of Rome. |

| | |
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| 1000 B.C. | Chinese perfected the first light cavalry, armed with bows and arrows. |
| A.D. 70-100 | The first horseshoe, a leather boot with a bronze nail, was invented to protect the hoofs of mail carriers' mounts on the stone surfaced roads of Rome. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 100-400 | Farmers in the North Sea Lowlands developed the "stripper" for harvesting grain. |
| 620-32 | The precepts of Mohammed unified Arabia and began the conquests by "the horseman of Islan". Both the Barb and the Arabian breeds of horse are products of this warfare. |
| 732 | The Franks riding Great War Horses defeated the Moore near Tours, France. This was the "high tide" of the Islamic invasion of Europe. Since the stirrup was invented by the Franks, Tours may have been the first major battle in which stirrups were used. |
| 1000 | The term "cowboy" was being used in Ireland. |
| 1000 | The padded horse-collar was invented for drafter use in France or Germany. |
| 1100 | The Great War Horses used by knights of the First Crusade routed Islamic horseman and contributed critically to the conquest of the Holy Land. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1337-1453 | The Hundred Years' War between England and France influenced the development of Royal Studs and intensive horse breeding programs in both countries. |
| 1493 | The second expedition of Christopher Columbus returned the horse to the New World and, during January 1494, landed a herd on the coast of Haiti. |
| 1521 | Juan Ponce de Leon landed fifty horses, from Cuba or Puerto Rico, on the Gulf Coast of Florida, probably at Charlotte Harbor. |
| 1539-41 | The horseback expeditions of Hernando de Soto and Francisco Coronado crossed out Southeast and Southwest, and almost met near the Oklahoma-Kansas border. |
| 1541 | Jacques Cartier landed twenty horses at the site of Quebec. |
| 1585 | Walter Raleigh sent horses to his colony At Roanoke, on the North Carolina coast. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1598 | Juan de Onate led his colonists into the Rio Grande Valley and established the first domestic horse herds in the West. |
| 1620 | Daniel Goobin delivered "Irish mares and asses" to Jamestown, Virginia. |
| 1630-50 | The Puritans landed English, and probably Irish, horses at Salem. The Dutch brought Flemish Great Horses to Manhattan Island. The Swedes brought horses to their colony in New Jersey and to eastern Pennsylvania. |
| 1680 | The Pope Revolt in New Mexico drove the Spanish from the Santa Fe-Albuquerque region for a decade, and provided the Apache-Navaho with from three to five thousand horses. This launched horseback warfare on the high plains and ushered in the seventy to one hundred year introduction of horsemanship to Indian tribes west of the Mississippi. |
| 1730's | Pennsylvania German farmers in the vicinity of Lancaster invented the Conestoga Wagon, bred up America's first drafter - the Conestoga Horse - and built Americas first bankbarn. |

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1710's Pennsylvania German farmers in the vicinity of Lancaster invented the Conestoga Wagon, bred up America's first drafter - the Conestoga Horse - and built American first bankhorn.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1740's | Cheyenne, Sioux and Crow warriors were riding horses through the Rockies, hence across the Laramie Plain. The decade seems to mark the return of the horse to his prehistoric homeland. |
| 1750's | The practice of shoeing horses began in America. |
| 1755 | More than 150 Conestoga horse teams established the first wagon route across the Alleghenies by hauling the supply train of the Braddock Expedition. |
| 1767 | A springless box wagon, hauled by four horses, inaugurated public transportation between New York and Philadelphia. The vehicle, called "the Flying Machine", made the ninety mile journey in forty-eight hours. |
| 1769 | Fernando di Reuera brought the California Missions their first herd of horses and donkeys. |
| 1786 | The South Caroline Jockey Club, America's first society for "gentlemen of the turf" was founded at Charleston. |

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1766 The South Carolina Jockey Club, America's first society for "gentlemen of the sport" was founded at Charleston.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1806 | On February 15, Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition wrote a description in his journal about a Nez Perce breed of horses. Some authorities consider this to be evidence that the Nez Perce had already hybridized the Appaloosa as a distinct breed. |
| 1820 | The Conestoga Wagon was redesigned into the smaller prairie schooner about this time. The change is presumed to have been the work of a village blacksmith in southern Ohio. |
| 1823 | On May 23, Old Top Gallant, a stallion, won the first professional trotting race in America. It was run over the Union Course on New York's Long Island. |
| 1826-27 | Downing and Abbot invented the Concord Stagecoach. |
| 1833 | The California Mission reported ownership of 62,500 horses, mules and donkeys. |
| 1855 | Lexington established a four-mile saddle record of seven minutes, nineteen and 3/4 seconds. |

1826 On February 15, Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition wrote a description in his journal about a Ferro breed of horses. Some authorities consider this to be evidence that the Ass Ferro had already exhibited the Appaloosa as a distinct breed.

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1836-37 Cowlie and Abbot traversed the Cherokee Reservation.

1839 The California Mission reported ownership of 62,500 horses, mules and donkeys.

1850 Jerlopin established a Tomwalle stable breed of saddle ponies, minnesen and 3/4 mustang.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1861-65 | Estimates indicate that between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 horses and mules died "in service" during the Civil War. |
| 1865 | The Saratoga Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses was founded. |
| 1868 | A Division of Veterinary Medicine, the first program offering degrees in veterinary medicine at an American University, was established at Cornell University. |
| 1867-69 | Technologic need caused our horse population to increase by 37 percent, and our mule population by 32 percent, during the two years. This launched the program to develop competent draft horses by crossing native stocks with imported Great Horse breeds. |
| 1875 | The Kentucky Derby was inaugurated. |
| 1891 | The American Saddle breed was established. |
| 1900-10 | Our national horse population increased by 70 percent, from 13,000,000 to 23,000,000. |
| 1919-20 | The American horse population reached an all-time high, as a result of intensive farm programs during World War I. |

| | |
|---|---|
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| 1910-20 | The American horse population reached an all-time high, as a result of intensive farm programs during World War I. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1920-40 | Introduction of the mobile tractor caused farmers to sell most of their horses to pet food canneries. |
| 1935 | Studbook of Tennessee Walking Horse established. |
| 1940 | Studbook of the Quarter Horse established. |
| 1965 | Unofficial estimates indicate a total population of five million horses in the United States, with most of them used as family "hobbies" in suburbia. |

Approximate Number of Mule Deer and Antelope
on Winter and Summer Range and Estimated
AUM's Consumed Within the Herd Management Areas

| | MULE DEER | | | | ANTELOPE | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Summer Range | | Winter Range | | Summer Range | | Winter Range | | AUM's |
| Herd Mgmt. Area | Number | AUM's | Number | AUM's | Number | AUM's | Number | AUM's | TOTAL |
| Catnip Mtn. | 2,000 | 3,200 | 2,000 | 1,600 | 800 | 1,280 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 7,280 |
| High Rock | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | 1,920 |
| Fox-Hog Mtn. | 250 | 400 | 250 | 200 | 200 | 320 | | | 920 |
| Tuledad | 2,000 | 3,200 | 2,000 | 1,600 | | | 500 | 400 | 5,200 |
| New Years Lake | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | | | 500 | 400 | 1,360 |
| Round Mtn. | 50 | 80 | 50 | 40 | 20 | 32 | 20 | 16 | 168 |
| Ravendale | 200 | 320 | 500 | 400 | 150 | 240 | 100 | 80 | 1,040 |
| Twin Peaks | 7,000 | 11,200 | 25,000 | 20,000 | 400 | 800 | 1,000 | 800 | 32,800 |
| Shaffer Mtn. | 50 | 80 | 1,800 | 1,440 | 200 | 320 | 300 | 240 | 2,080 |
| Ft. Sage Mtn. | 200 | 320 | 1,000 | 800 | 50 | 80 | | | 1,200 |
| TOTAL | 12,550 | 20,080 | 33,400 | 26,720 | 2,220 | 3,712 | 4,320 | 3,456 | 53,968 |

Approximate Number of Mule Deer and Antelope
on Winter and Summer Range and Estimated
AUM's Consumed Within the Herd Management Areas

| Herd Mgmt. Area | MULE DEER Summer Range Number | Summer Range AUM's | Winter Range Number | Winter Range AUM's | ANTELOPE Summer Range Number | Summer Range AUM's | Winter Range Number | Winter Range AUM's | AUM's TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Candy Mtn. | 2,000 | 3,200 | 2,000 | 1,600 | 800 | 1,280 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 7,280 |
| High Rock | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | 1,920 |
| Fox-Box Mtn. | 250 | 400 | 250 | 200 | 200 | 320 | | | 920 |
| Tuledad | 2,000 | 3,200 | 2,000 | 1,600 | | | 300 | 400 | 5,200 |
| Sow Tears Lake | 400 | 640 | 400 | 320 | | | 300 | 400 | 1,360 |
| Round Mtn. | 50 | 80 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 32 | 20 | 16 | 168 |
| Pueblo | 200 | 320 | 300 | 400 | 150 | 240 | 100 | 80 | 1,040 |
| Twin Peaks | 1,000 | 1,600 | 25,000 | 20,000 | 400 | 800 | 1,000 | 800 | 23,800 |
| Quarter Mtn. | 50 | 80 | 1,800 | 1,440 | 200 | 320 | 300 | 240 | 2,080 |
| Pt. Page Mtn. | 200 | 320 | 1,000 | 800 | 50 | 80 | | | 1,200 |
| TOTAL | 16,350 | 26,000 | 33,400 | 26,720 | 2,320 | 3,712 | 4,320 | 3,456 | 59,888 |

Approximate Number of Acres and Percent of the Total Area
for Mule Deer and Antelope Winter and Summer Range
Within the Herd Management Areas

| HERD MANAGEMENT AREA | Total Acres | MULE DEER Winter Range | % of Total | Summer Range | % of Total | ANTELOPE Winter Range | % of Total | Summer Range | % of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Catnip Mountain | 594,600 | 92,500 | 16 | 178,000 | 30 | 115,400 | 20 | 164,000 | 28 |
| High Rock | 231,000 | 39,700 | 17 | 85,300 | 37 | 44,300 | 19 | 4,300 | 2 |
| Fox-Hog Mtn. | 94,000 | 27,600 | 29 | | | | | | |
| Tuledad | 158,000 | | | 97,900 | 62 | 18,800 | 12 | 153,900 | 97 |
| New Year Lake | 343,000 | 162,800 | 47 | 55,500 | 16 | 25,700 | 7 | 14,700 | 4 |
| Round Mountain | 7,400 | 6,300 | 85 | | | | | 4,100 | 55 |
| Ravendale | 28,600 | 2,300 | 80 | 15,800 | | | | 15,800 | 55 |
| Twin Peaks | 773,500 | 141,000 | 18 | 184,800 | 24 | 181,900 | 24 | 251,500 | 33 |
| Shaffer Mountain | 32,000 | 24,700 | 77 | | | 28,000 | 88 | 3,800 | 12 |
| Ft. Sage Mtn. | 17,200 | 16,000 | 93 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 2,279,300 | 512,900 | 23 | 617,300 | 27 | 414,100 | 13 | 612,100 | 27 |

OF CALIFORNIA — RESOURCES AGENCY

RONALD REAGAN, Governor

ARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
. Box 1480
ng, CA 96001

Dept. of Interior
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA

February 22, 1974

Mr. Dean Bibles, District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Dean:

Thank you for having Clyde Brewer brief us on your draft plan for wild horses and burros on lands administered by the Susanville District. The discussion was very informative and although we did not have the opportunity to review the plan in great detail, we believe the objectives and program set forth are steps in the right direction.

We fully concur with your recommendation that an interim management program, aimed at holding horse and burro populations at or below February 1973 levels, be implemented as soon as possible. Unless these populations are held in check there will be increasing competition for range with both wildlife and livestock and continuing range deterioration.

We recognize that the planning process involved with proper allocation of range between wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros will entail some time. We look forward to working with you, as specified in Section 3A of PL 92-195 toward the development of a balanced management plan for the ranges shared by wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros.

Sincerely,

R. J. O'Brien
Regional Manager

| RTE | ACT | | INITIALS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | DISTRICT MANAGER | | | |
| | | PLNG COORDINATOR | | | |
| | | ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| | | DIV OF RES MGNT | | | |
| | | DIV OF OPER | | | |
| | | EAGLE LAKE R. A.M. | | | |
| | | PIT RIVER R. A.M. | | | |
| | | SURPRISE R. A.M. | | | |

February 22, 1974

Mr. Dean Gibler, District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1260
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Dean:

Thank you for having Clyde Kramer brief us on your draft plan for wild horses and burros on lands administered by the Susanville District. The discussion was very informative and although we did not have the opportunity to review the plan in great detail, we believe the objectives and programs set forth are steps in the right direction.

We fully concur with your recommendation that an interim management program, aimed at holding horse and burro populations at or below February 1973 levels, be implemented as soon as possible. Unless these populations are held in check, there will be increasing competition for range with both wildlife and livestock and continuing range deterioration.

We recognize that the planning process involved with proper allocation of range between wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros will absorb some time. We look forward to working with you, as specified in Section 3A of PL 92-195 toward the development of a balanced management plan for the ranges shared by wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros.

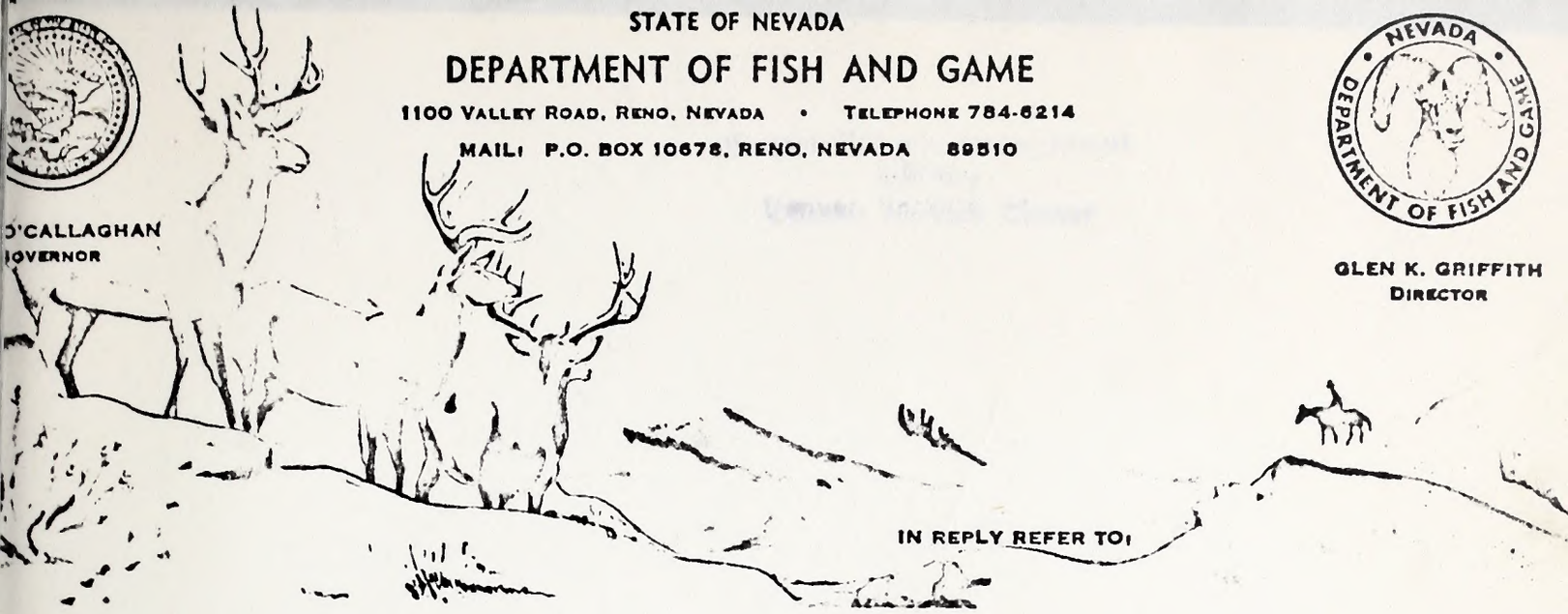
Sincerely,

J. O'Brien
Regional Manager

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1100 VALLEY ROAD, RENO, NEVADA • TELEPHONE 784-6214
MAIL: P.O. BOX 10678, RENO, NEVADA 89510

O'CALLAGHAN
GOVERNOR

GLEN K. GRIFFITH
DIRECTOR



IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 21, 1974

Mr. Dean Bibles
Susanville District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Susanville, California

Dear Mr. Bibles:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review and discuss the draft of the Wildhorse and Burro Plan for the Susanville District. We are particularly encouraged that you are going ahead and implementing the charge of manageing these animals without further delay.

The objectives as stated in the plan, both for the long and short term, are realistic and generally meet with our approval. The short term objective of holding "zero population growth" we agree, is necessary in light of the rapidly increasing horse populations of this area.

Sincerely,

Glen K. Griffith
Director

GT/tr

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